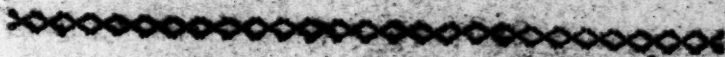


THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
RHEDI,  
THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT.





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THE

HISTORY

OF

THE HERMIT

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THE HERMIT OF THE MOUNTAINS



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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
R H E D I, K

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ABARAT.

AN  
ORIENTAL TALE.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for T. CADELL, in the Strand:  
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LONDON:  
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THE HISTORY OF

justice was dispensed with an equal  
hand between the poor and rich; the  
country was wrested from the hand of

HISTORY OF

RHEDI,

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

**I**N the reign of our sovereign lord  
Almalek, of which historians have  
not fixed the commencement or the  
period, Amur Aslan Khan, descended  
from one of the most illustrious fami-  
lies of Persia, obtained the government  
of Ghilan, as the reward of his ap-  
proved fidelity and virtue. Under the  
administration of Amur, the balance of  
A justice

## 2 THE HISTORY OF

justice was suspended with an equal poise betwixt poor and rich ; the scourge was wrested from the hand of oppression ; honest industry received, and enjoyed in security, its well earned reward ; and the wants of the necessitous poor were supplied by the overflowings of his bounty. In Amur, learning and ingenuity found a consummate judge and a munificent patron ; virtue reared her fearless head under the protection of his sheltering arm ; and vice fled like the shades of night, before the approach of dawn, from the lightning of his eye. The afflicted widow derived consolation from the sympathy of his heart, and the beneficence of his conduct ; and the helpless orphan, rejoicing in the diffusion of his liberality, regarded him as a second parent, and implored that a tenfold return might  
be

be made to him of the blessings he bestowed.

Yet Amur, endowed as he was by nature with a humanity and benevolence of disposition, united with an incorruptible integrity of heart, which he had cultivated by discipline, and improved by habit, was not exempted from the stroke of affliction, or the shafts of calumny, from the arrow that flieth in secret, or from the sudden blast of unforeseen destruction, that razes all the ideal structures of happiness which fancy hath reared, from the foundation.

At the same time that Amur Aslan Khan enjoyed the government of Ghilan, Askeri Khan, whose character was in every respect a contrast to that



#### 4 THE HISTORY OF

of Amur, presided over the neighbouring province of Attirbutzan. The heart of Askeri perpetually boiled with selfish and malignant passions, which brooded over it, as the noisome vapours that arise from the fens of Babylon hover above the marshes from which they are exhaled. The superior merit and growing reputation of Amur had been long objects of jealousy and envy to Askeri, whose little soul shrunk from the effulgence of the character of his rival, as the night birds, that haunt the ruined domes of Persepolis, shrink from the splendor of the luminary of day. Askeri, naturally cruel and malicious, was likewise dark, cunning, and deceitful; and despairing to emulate the character of his rival, as well as unwilling to attempt it, he basely resolved to throw the stains of slander and

and reproach on a character, whose lustre discovered to him the foulness and deformity of his own, and served at once both to confound and upbraid him.

As the means of accomplishing the designs of craft and villainy are seldom wanting to those who have once formed them, an occasion soon presented itself, of executing the wicked purposes which his heart had for some time meditated.

Nasr Ali Beg, nephew to Askeri, and whose character was in most respects similar to that of his uncle, having, by a fraudulent conveyance, obtained a disposition to an estate in the province of Ghilan, which was acquired by rapine and extortion, Amur,

## 6 THE HISTORY OF

before whose tribunal the cause was pleaded, set aside the claim, both of Nafr and the nearest heir, upon a clear proof of its having been unjustly acquired, and confiscated the whole for the use of the Sophy. Nafr, disappointed and irritated at a sentence, which, however just in itself, precluded the views of his unfair policy, and prevented the gratification of his sordid avarice, represented the affair to his uncle Askeri; and both of them, actuated by sentiments of the greatest malignity towards Amur, concurred in suborning witnesses to swear, that he had given in a false estimate of the estate, and had appropriated the greatest part of it to his own use. Having gained over the Vizier, Aman Ola, a man of a most flagitious character, to their interest, by promising to share the  
the



the spoil with him, they forged an artful and plausible tale, which some of their own creatures, allured by largesses, engaged to support, and presented it to the Sophy, in the form of an accusation or complaint against the governor; in consequence of which a royal mandate was immediately issued for apprehending Amur, and for bringing him before the tribunal of the Sophy of Persia, to answer to the accusation brought against him by Nasr Ali Beg, of his having defrauded him of an estate, which had been bequeathed to him by a relation, and of his having secured the greatest part of it to himself, while he pretended to sequester it, upon the plea of its being unjustly acquired, for the benefit of the Sophy.

### 3 THE HISTORY OF

Gurgi Khan, a friend of Amur, who resided at Jopakan, having got intelligence of what was transacting to his prejudice, immediately sent off an express with a letter, to inform him of his danger; who, travelling day and night, arrived at Ghilan two days before the guard that was sent on purpose to apprehend Amur. When the courier arrived, the governor was in company with Almerine his wife, and Mouli a Turkish merchant, who had come to Ghilan with several bales of goods he had brought for sale, and with whom he had contracted an intimate friendship. Amur, whose mind was firm as the promontory that repels the waves in the gulf of Ormus, was astonished, but not terrified, at the intimation he had received; and, conscious of his innocence, determined at first, at all hazards,

zards, to vindicate his conduct. When Almerine and Mouli, however, were informed of the contents of the letter, alarmed with apprehensions for the fate of Amur, they joined in earnest intreaties that he would provide for his safety by flight, in which they proposed to accompany him, carrying along with them his only son, Riza Couli, a boy of about ten years of age, and of a very promising genius, and two or three servants, with as many camels, loaded with their most valuable effects. Mouli proposed that they should all together direct their course towards Aleppo, where he resided, and where he assured them of a safe retreat, and of a hospitable reception. Amur, regarding his flight as in some measure inconsistent with the heroism and intrepidity of his character,



## 10 THE HISTORY OF

and thinking it might be construed into a tacit acquiescence in the charge brought against him by his enemies, appeared extremely reluctant to comply with the solicitations of Almerine and Mouli; but an old domestic, who was named Mansur, and who had been long in his service, though he was then in the family of Askeri, having wrote him a letter, which came to his hand at that instant, informing him of all the particulars of the plot that had been contrived against him, he complied at last with the importunity of his friends, and instantly prepared for setting out with all possible expedition.

Amur having left a paper for the perusal of the Sophy, containing a vindication of his conduct, and an account  
of

of the reasons of his flight, began his journey, with his friend and little family, in about two hours after, for the city of Aleppo. As they set out in the night, and travelled for some time with the utmost dispatch, they arrived by day-light at a small cottage on the extremity of the province of Attirbutzan, where they got a little refreshment, and taking their rout through Shirwart, they proceeded on their journey, by the most unfrequented roads, towards mount Ararat, intending to pass over that mountain, and thence through Armenia, to Aleppo. After travelling six days with all the expedition they were capable of, they arrived at the foot of that part of mount Ararat which is covered with wood; and as they were properly armed for defending themselves against the

wild beasts, in case they should be attacked, and imagined that by traveling through the wood, they would be in less hazard of being discovered, they entered it without further deliberation, and following a winding path which pointed out their course, they came to a small opening, where the pasturage being good for their camels, they resolved to repose and refresh themselves a little, after the fatigue they had undergone.

During this interval, a fatal accident happened, which plunged them all in the deepest distress, and almost overwhelmed even the soul of Amur with a weight of misery, which the utmost exertion of his reason and fortitude could scarce enable him to sustain. Riza Couli, his son, having wandered  
a little



a little into the wood from the rest of the company, for his amusement, and happening to penetrate into the thickest part of the forest, where he lost his way, was observed by a wild boar, who rushing upon him furiously, tore the unhappy child to pieces on the spot. His screams however were heard by the rest, and his father and Mouli starting up in a wild transport of amazement and horror, flew in an instant to the place from which the screams seemed to proceed; but before they arrived, the savage monster had destroyed the child, whom, scared from his prey by the sudden appearance of Amur and Mouli, he left miserably mangled, and on the point of expiring. Amur seeing the body of his dear Riza Couli thus cruelly torn, and all bathed in blood, was transfixed with horror and  
 agony

## 14 THE HISTORY OF

agony at the spectacle, and falling prostrate on the earth, he groaned with inexpressible anguish, beating his breast, and looking towards heaven, as if he accused Providence on account of the severity of its dispensations. Almerine having by this time come up, and having had a glimpse of the bloody corpse of her son, uttered a wild and doleful shriek, and fainted away in the arms of the servants who attended her. When she had recovered from the swoon into which she had fallen, she pierced the air with her cries, and embracing the mangled body of her child, intreated him to answer her, as if he had heard her call. Mouli, deeply affected with the pathetic scene which was exhibited before him, expressed the strongest sympathy with this much-afflicted pair, and did all in his power

to sooth and comfort them under their distress. As he perceived, however, that all his endeavours would be ineffectual, while the object that excited and renewed their grief was before their eyes, he resolved to prepare for the interment of the unfortunate Riza Couli; and having, with the assistance of the servants, dug a grave on the spot, they went in order to take up the corpse, and interr it in the grave which they had digged. Almerine knowing their intention, clung to the body of her dear child, as if she was resolved not to be separated from him; but Amur, whose feelings were as strong as those of Almerine, though they were more under the controul of reason, seconding the endeavours of Mouli, they at last, partly by intreaties and expostulations, and partly by force,



## 16 THE HISTORY OF

force, loosed him from her embraces; and Amur, with a heart overwhelmed with sorrow, paid the last debt to the unhappy Riza, by consigning him to the dust. After performing this melancholy office, Mouli proposed that they should immediately leave a place that suggested so many mournful ideas, which Amur readily agreed to, and having ordered the servants to get the camels in readiness, they dragged Almerine with difficulty from the spot where her Riza Couli was buried, and proceeded on their journey with bursting hearts.

After travelling several miles in the path in which they had set out, they came to a delightful lawn in the middle of the wood, through which there glided a transparent stream, that took  
its

its rise from a neighbouring mountain, and rushing through several rocks, that were half discovered through the trees at a little distance, and seemed as it were jagged and scooped out by the fall of the water, formed a variety of natural cascades, which, by their murmuring and dashing against the rocks, pleased the ear, and invited to repose. In the upper end of the meadow, on a small eminence, they espied a grotto, which nature herself seemed to have dug out of the rock that overshadowed it, but which the hand of art appeared to have improved, and to have rendered more commodious and agreeable. On each side of the grotto there grew a large spreading tree, whether planted by the hand of art or nature is uncertain, which rendered the appearance of the place altogether more pleasing and picturesque;

## 18 THE HISTORY OF

turcsque; and while they contributed to its coolness, during the scorching heats of summer, they likewise served to screen it from the piercing blasts of winter. While Amur was looking around him on a scene that, in spite of dismal ideas which possessed his mind, in some degree attracted his attention, he observed a person towards the decline of life, of a venerable but melancholy aspect, approaching towards him. His hair was silvered, partly by the hand of time, and partly by the pangs of sorrow he had often felt; gentle benignity and tender pity beamed in his eye, and regarding each of them alternately, with a look of complacency that bespoke the humanity of his soul, and which inspired confidence, at the same time that it excited sentiments of gratitude and affection in the

the



the minds of his guests; "Welcome,  
 " my children," said he, " to this  
 " humble but hospitable roof. Here  
 " opulence displays not her costly fur-  
 " niture; nor does the hand of luxury  
 " spread forth her dainties, in order to  
 " pamper the sated appetite; but sim-  
 " plicity prepares the moderate repast,  
 " and exercise and health, peace and  
 " innocence, render it tasteful. Enter  
 " therefore this lowly dwelling, and  
 " repose yourselves on yonder mossy  
 " couch," pointing to a seat in the  
 back of the grotto, " while I set be-  
 fore you such entertainment as this  
 " cot affords." He then brought them  
 some excellent milk and cheese, toge-  
 ther with dates and pistachio nuts, of  
 which they made a temperate meal,  
 thanking their benevolent host for his  
 kindness and hospitality. After the  
 calls

calls of hunger were satisfied, the stranger who had welcomed them to this delightful solitude, actuated by that sympathy of soul which usually distinguishes those to whom suffering hath been familiar, expressed by his looks an earnest desire to be acquainted with the history of his unknown guests; and regarding each of them attentively, one after another, his eye rested upon Amur, on whom he gazed with a steadfast look of mournful sympathy, as if he read his misfortunes in his countenance. The sympathetic soul of Amur was affected in the same manner; his feelings entirely corresponded to those of this unknown person; he gazed on him with equal steadiness, and, swallowed up as his mind was in the contemplation of his own misfortunes, the expression of his  
coun-

countenance indicated a strong desire to be informed of the incidents in the life of a man whose appearance had so much arrested his attention. They continued for some time looking at each other with expressive silence, till at last the stranger, addressing himself to Amur, "Son of affliction," said he, "I perceive, from thy dejected air, and the traits of melancholy which grief hath imprinted on the countenance of thee and thy companions, that the angel of adversity has laid his chastening hand upon you, and that you have been made to drink of the bitter cup of calamity. Let thy benignity and candour excuse a wish, which not an impertinent curiosity, but the deep-felt interest I take in your misfortunes, hath excited, to know your history, and in particular

" the



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“ the cause of that sadness which  
“ weighs down thy soul. I myself have  
“ been inured to misfortune, and from  
“ my own experience have learnt to  
“ feel the misfortunes of others; and  
“ though it may not be in the power  
“ of a fellow mortal to relieve thee  
“ from the pressure of affliction, yet  
“ that Being, who sends afflictions upon  
“ the children of men for the wise  
“ purposes, may enable me to pour  
“ the balm of sympathy and consola-  
“ tion into thy wounded heart; for  
“ sympathy is grateful to the soul of  
“ the sufferer, as the sound of a mur-  
“ muring stream is grateful to the ear  
“ of the parched traveller climbing the  
“ summit of mount Taurus.” — “ May  
“ Allah,” replied Amur, “ second the  
“ kind and benevolent wishes which I  
“ know have arisen in thy sympathetic  
“ heart

"heart towards those to whom thou  
 "canst only be attached by the tie of  
 "mutual calamity! And may he re-  
 "store both to us and you that serene-  
 "nity and comfort which he alone is  
 "able to bestow! The cup of afflic-  
 "tion, as thou supposest, has indeed  
 "been poured out to us; and I  
 "guess, from thy looks, that thou  
 "hast likewise drunk largely of the  
 "bitter draught. In the mean time,"  
 added Amur, "I will readily comply  
 "with the wish thou hast expressed,  
 "which I know proceeds from the  
 "tender interest thou takest in our suf-  
 "ferings, in hopes that thou wilt like-  
 "wise, in thy turn, gratify the desire  
 "that I feel to be made acquainted  
 "with the history of thy misfortunes,  
 "a desire which is dictated by a similar  
 "sensation."

Amur

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Amur then having informed him, that the lady whom he saw with him was his wife, and that Mouli, whom he pointed to, was his friend, gave him an account of his name, family, and place of abode; acquainted him of the office he had enjoyed of governor of Ghilan; of the plots of his enemies to effectuate his ruin; of the success of their schemes; and of the resolution he had taken to abandon his native country, and retire to Aleppo, with his little family, under the conduct of his friend Mouli, who had advised their flight, and invited him and his family to pass their life with him; concluding with an account of the fatal accident which had befallen his son Riza Couli, his last and only hope.

After



After he had ended his relation, the stranger looking on Amur and Almerine with fixed and mournful attention, "Your sufferings," said he, "my friends, have indeed been great, but mine have been still more severe, and the rod of affliction hath been laid upon me with a heavy hand." Amur then, in the name of himself and his friends, respectfully asked the courteous stranger, whose appearance had so much interested them in his fate, to favour them with the history of his life and misfortunes. "I will readily comply with your desire," replied he; "but if it be agreeable to you," added he, "we will repair to yonder grove, which, as it is the scene of the most melancholy and affecting incidents of my life, may possibly aid my relation, by recalling those inci-

B

"dents

## 26 THE HISTORY OF

“dents more vividly to my remem-  
“brance, and may enable me more  
“strongly and feelingly to describe the  
“calamities of my life which have  
“made an impression upon my heart  
“that can never be obliterated.” They  
immediately walked to the grove to  
which he pointed, and having seated  
themselves, the stranger fixing his eye  
upon a spot in the center of it, covered  
with green turf, heaved a deep-felt  
sigh; then looking mournfully on the  
persons who were eagerly expecting his  
relation, he began the history of his  
life in the following manner :

“The wretch whom you see before  
“you is Rhedi, the son of Abusaid,  
“one of the chief beglerbegs † of the

† The name by which the Persians distin-  
guish their nobility.

“pro-

“ province of Carimania. My father,  
 “ who was possessed of an ample for-  
 “ tune by inheritance, and had greatly  
 “ augmented that fortune by a frugal  
 “ but decent œconomy, resolved to  
 “ spare no expence in my education;  
 “ and after having provided me with  
 “ the ablest masters in the kingdom,  
 “ for instructing me in the learning of  
 “ the East, in which I had made con-  
 “ siderable progress, he determined, in  
 “ order that I might acquire the most  
 “ valuable arts and sciences of other  
 “ nations, to send me into Europe, un-  
 “ der the tuition of Abulfeda, an inti-  
 “ mate friend of my father, and a man  
 “ of great learning and abilities, which,  
 “ added to his extensive knowledge of  
 “ the world, derived from his long re-  
 “ sidence in foreign courts, rendered  
 “ him one of the most accomplished



## 28 THE HISTORY OF

“men in the empire. At the same  
 “time that my father neglected no  
 “means of improving my mind in  
 “useful knowledge, he was desirous of  
 “attaching my affections to a young  
 “lady, whose name was Abbassah, of  
 “considerable beauty and merit, of an  
 “opulent fortune, and daughter to  
 “Savi Mustapha, one of the nobles of  
 “the province. He was the more solici-  
 “tous to accomplish this, as I was his  
 “only child, my mother having died  
 “while I was very young; and as my  
 “father was still a widower, and seem-  
 “ed determined to continue such, he  
 “wished, on these accounts, to see  
 “me engaged in an agreeable con-  
 “nection by marriage, that might  
 “give him the hopes of the propaga-  
 “tion of his name and family. But  
 “though I was now in the twentieth  
 “year

“ year of my age, the glance of beauty  
 “ had not yet seduced my affections,  
 “ nor had love kindled up his flame in  
 “ my heart; whether it was, that an  
 “ uninterrupted application to my stu-  
 “ dies, accompanied with a certain  
 “ pensive turn of mind, which is often  
 “ unfavourable to the dominion of the  
 “ softer passions, had as yet preserved  
 “ my heart easy and tranquil; or whe-  
 “ ther it was, that the Persian ladies  
 “ possessed not charms striking and ex-  
 “ pressive enough to arrest my affec-  
 “ tions, I was never captivated by any  
 “ of them to such a degree as to en-  
 “ danger my happiness or peace. When  
 “ my father observed that I was in a  
 “ great measure indifferent to the at-  
 “ tractions and blandishments of the  
 “ fair sex, he desisted from pushing his  
 “ project any farther at present, than

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“ by giving insinuations of what he  
“ wished might be brought about;  
“ adding, that though he was ex-  
“ tremely desirous of my being mar-  
“ ried to Abbassah, yet he would not,  
“ in a matter in which the whole com-  
“ fort of my future life was concerned,  
“ abuse his parental authority so far, as  
“ to impose a constraint upon my in-  
“ clinations, but would allow me to  
“ follow the natural bent and operation  
“ of my own passions, in their future  
“ developement, under the controul of  
“ reason and reflection, as their surest  
“ guides, to whose dictate, he said,  
“ from the experience he had already  
“ had of my conduct, he was confident,  
“ that both in selecting and deter-  
“ mining the objects of my choice, I  
“ would always shew a proper regard.  
“ This declaration of my father excited  
“ the



“ the strongest sentiments of filial re-  
 “ spect, gratitude, and affection in my  
 “ mind. I told him, that I was deeply  
 “ penetrated with a sense of his good-  
 “ ness and condescension; that when-  
 “ ever I should think of the connexion  
 “ he had recommended, I would en-  
 “ deavour to make such a choice as to  
 “ justify the confidence he had reposed  
 “ in me, but that at present I could not  
 “ help being of opinion, that till my  
 “ education was completed, and I had  
 “ returned from my travels, it would  
 “ be in every respect most eligible that  
 “ my heart continued free, since at-  
 “ tachments of the kind he was desirous  
 “ of my contracting could not fail to  
 “ obstruct my progress in the studies  
 “ in which I was engaged. My father,  
 “ satisfied with these reasons, contented  
 “ himself with giving me a caution, to

“beware of fixing my affections rashly,  
“as he was persuaded that at my re-  
“turn, both my judgment and inclina-  
“tions would induce me to co-operate  
“with his views; and gave immediate  
“orders for every thing to be got ready  
“for my departure. Though I burned  
“with an eager curiosity to see foreign  
“countries, of some of which my  
“imagination had led me to form the  
“most transporting ideas, yet I could  
“not leave the place of my nativity,  
“and the scenes of my youthful amuse-  
“ments and occupations without re-  
“gret, and without feeling a melan-  
“choly presage upon my mind, a pre-  
“sage that has been too surely accom-  
“plished in the event, that of those  
“transporting pleasures that are pecu-  
“liar to youth and innocence, and of  
“that gaiety and giddiness of heart  
“which

“ which are their usual concomitants,  
 “ and which had hitherto always attend-  
 “ ed me, I should never again parti-  
 “ cipate in the same degree; and that  
 “ the current of my life, which had as  
 “ yet flown in a tenour equally peace-  
 “ ful and pleasant, would be far more  
 “ tumultuous and turbid in its future  
 “ course. Actuated by these various  
 “ and mixed emotions, which influen-  
 “ ced my mind by turns, I set out on  
 “ my travels, with my friend and tutor  
 “ Abulfeda, and was accompanied by  
 “ my father as far as Gombroon in the  
 “ Persian gulph, where I was to em-  
 “ bark for Constantinople, the capital  
 “ of the Ottoman dominions, in case  
 “ we could find a ship for that port;  
 “ if not, we proposed to sail in the first  
 “ ship bound for Leghorn, Venice, or  
 “ any other port in the Mediterranean.



“ We had waited only a few days,  
“ when we found a Turkish vessel  
“ ready to sail for Venice with the first  
“ fair wind; and having agreed with  
“ the captain, whose name was Abdal-  
“ lah, and a favourable gale springing  
“ up, my father took an affecting  
“ farewell of us both. After recom-  
“ mending us to the protection of  
“ Allah, he addressed himself to Abul-  
“ feda, with a solemn tenderness and  
“ affectionate fervor, which melted  
“ and overpowered my heart, and  
“ which I shall never forget. “ My  
“ ever worthy friend,” said the ten-  
“ der hearted, pious, and venerable  
“ parent, “ to thy care I commit the  
“ dear and only pledge of my Kadi-  
“ jah’s love! Let the eye of thy dis-  
“ cernment mark out his path, and  
“ the hand of thy experience conduct  
“ his

“ his steps ; let the light of thy know-  
“ ledge and the treasures of thy wif-  
“ dom be poured upon his mind ; and  
“ while thou art solicitous to cultivate  
“ his understanding by travel, conver-  
“ sation, and study, remember that  
“ on thy assiduous endeavours I de-  
“ pend for the formation of his morals,  
“ and for the government of his heart ;  
“ let thine instruction and example  
“ teach him the duties of piety and  
“ benevolence, and let the lessons of  
“ the prophet be instilled into his soul  
“ by thy frequent admonitions, that  
“ his virtues may blossom as the groves  
“ of citron in the gardens of Damas-  
“ cus. Farewel, my son, and my  
“ friend ! the only joy I shall taste of  
“ till your return, will be in antici-  
“ pating the prospect of it, and in  
“ counting the moments which bring.

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“ it nearer. May Allah preserve you  
 “ both from every danger, and speedily  
 “ restore you to my longing  
 “ arms, enriched with the treasures of  
 “ knowledge and virtue acquired by  
 “ your travels into foreign countries !”  
 “ At these words my father, throwing  
 “ his arms around my neck, we both  
 “ burst out into a flood of tears, which  
 “ for some time deprived us of the  
 “ power of speech, and continued  
 “ locked in each other’s arms, as if  
 “ we had each of us believed it would  
 “ be the last embrace ; till Abulfeda,  
 “ thinking it necessary to separate us,  
 “ in order to prevent the further indul-  
 “ gence of these emotions, the violence  
 “ of which might have been prejudi-  
 “ cial to us both, tore me from his  
 “ bosom, and hurrying me into the  
 “ ship, ordered the mariners instantly  
 “ to



“ to hoist the sails, which were done  
 “ with such dispatch, that the vessel  
 “ flying before the wind, we were in a  
 “ few minutes out of each other’s  
 “ sight; and in a short time after, no-  
 “ thing was to be seen above or around  
 “ us but the vast ocean and the bound-  
 “ less hemisphere. For some time,  
 “ both my sleep and appetite forsook  
 “ me; but the powers of nature,  
 “ which were exhausted, requiring a  
 “ recruit, they both returned, and I  
 “ recovered my former serenity and  
 “ cheerfulness, in proportion as we  
 “ drew nearer to Europe. After a  
 “ voyage of four months, we at last  
 “ arrived in safety at Venice. I was  
 “ astonished and delighted with the  
 “ first appearance of this noble city.  
 “ The number of the canals and  
 “ bridges, the magnificence of the  
 “ buildings,

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“ buildings, and the prodigious flow of  
“ commerce, which seemed to pour its  
“ treasures perpetually into its bosom,  
“ gave me an high idea of European  
“ opulence and grandeur, while its  
“ situation, rising as it were out of the  
“ ocean, seemed to ascertain its domi-  
“ nion over the watery element.

“ After spending three weeks at  
“ Venice, we visited Florence, Rome,  
“ Genoa, and the other principal cities  
“ of Italy, and embarking at Leg-  
“ horn, sailed for Gibraltar, where  
“ having staid a few days, we travelled  
“ through Spain, France, Germany,  
“ Poland, and Transylvania; and  
“ after a course of about three  
“ thousand miles, we arrived at Con-  
“ stantinople, eighteen months after  
“ our setting out from Gibraltar. The  
“ variety

“ variety of places I had seen, the quick  
“ succession of scenes I had passed  
“ through, and the peculiar customs,  
“ manners, and dispositions of the dif-  
“ ferent nations I had visited, contri-  
“ buted so much to the amusement of  
“ my imagination, the improvement of  
“ my understanding, and the increase  
“ of my knowledge of human nature,  
“ that I had almost forgot my native  
“ country, and felt very little desire to  
“ hasten my return to it. That anxiety  
“ and timid caution which are natural  
“ to a youthful traveller, on his first  
“ launching out into the world, toge-  
“ ther with a certain painful sensation,  
“ resulting from the consciousness of  
“ the distance he is at from the place of  
“ his abode, his family and friends,  
“ were now no longer felt: I considered  
“ the world in general as the great  
“ theatre



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" theatre on, which I was to act : parti-  
 " cular countries I preferred only so  
 " far as they contributed to my plea-  
 " sure and improvement; and in pro-  
 " portion as my ideas of the varieties  
 " in the face of nature and in human  
 " characters were enlarged, my attach-  
 " ment to any particular spot, was  
 " greatly diminished. While I was  
 " thus travelling from place to place,  
 " with all the ardor of eager curiosity  
 " and of sanguine hope, deriving new  
 " enjoyment from every succession of  
 " new objects that presented them-  
 " selves to my mind, a melancholy ac-  
 " cident which fell out in this flow of  
 " my felicity, at once damped the vi-  
 " gour of my pursuits, and for some  
 " time put a stop to my career in the  
 " bustle of life. This was the death  
 " of my worthy friend and tutor Abul-  
 " feda,

“ feda, who by his instructive conver-  
“ sation and amiable manners had con-  
“ ciliated my esteem and affection to  
“ such a degree, that I regarded him  
“ as a second parent. His death  
“ therefore was a severe blow, which  
“ my utmost fortitude could scarce  
“ enable me to sustain. I shut myself  
“ up in my chamber for several weeks,  
“ and indulged my grief, in lamenting  
“ the loss of my dear deceased friend,  
“ till finding my health impaired by my  
“ confinement, I determined, for its  
“ re-establishment, to travel to Persia  
“ over land, taking the rout through  
“ Armenia and Georgia, which last  
“ place I was particularly desirous of  
“ seeing upon account of the strenuous  
“ efforts its princes had made, in the  
“ defence of their liberties, against the  
“ tyranny both of the Persian and the  
“ Ottoman

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“ Ottoman court. Having by a letter  
 “ informed my father of the melan-  
 “ choly death of Abulfeda, and got  
 “ every thing ready for my departure,  
 “ I set out on my journey, but felt  
 “ myself in a very different situation  
 “ from what I had been in a few days  
 “ before. Deprived of my dear Abul-  
 “ feda, who had been my companion  
 “ through so many remote countries,  
 “ and whose judicious observations  
 “ rendered my travels both instructive  
 “ and entertaining, I began now to  
 “ sigh for the place of my nativity, and  
 “ earnestly wished to embrace my  
 “ father, and to pour my soul into his  
 “ affectionate bosom. But an event,  
 “ the fruitful source both of the most  
 “ exquisite happiness and misery I had  
 “ ever felt, soon after happened, which  
 “ produced a total alteration in the  
 “ state



“ state of my mind, and in my future  
 “ prospects.

“ Having travelled through Arme-  
 “ nia without any remarkable occur-  
 “ rence, and felt my health greatly  
 “ improved, as well as my spirits re-  
 “ stored, by moderate exercise, serene  
 “ weather, and the agreeable scenes of  
 “ rural life which were frequently ex-  
 “ hibited to my view, I arrived at  
 “ Teflis, the capital of Georgia, in-  
 “ tending, after making a short stay in  
 “ that city, to take the nearest rout to  
 “ Kerman in Carimania, the place of  
 “ my nativity. During my abode in  
 “ Teflis, I spent my time principally  
 “ in studying the genius and manners  
 “ of the Georgians, and was struck  
 “ with admiration and surprize at that  
 “ heroic ardor with which they seemed

“ to

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“ to be actuated, and which, inflamed  
 “ as it was by a passion for liberty and  
 “ independence, rendered them, not-  
 “ withstanding the small extent of ter-  
 “ ritory they possessed, objects of jea-  
 “ lousy and dread to the Ottoman em-  
 “ pire. As I had already transgressed  
 “ the utmost limits of the time I had  
 “ prescribed for my stay, I gave orders  
 “ to have every thing in readiness for  
 “ my departure against next morning, re-  
 “ solving to proceed on my journey with  
 “ all convenient expedition. The day  
 “ before I set out I spent in bidding fare-  
 “ wel to several persons of distinguished  
 “ merit, with whom I had contracted an  
 “ acquaintance during the short time I  
 “ continued at Tefflis. Returning from  
 “ a visit of this kind in the forenoon,  
 “ I walked on insensibly, till I came to  
 “ the opening of a narrow sequestered  
 “ avenue,

“ avenue, at some distance from the  
“ high road, and observing that the  
“ avenue to which I had come, though  
“ seldom frequented by travellers, pro-  
“ mised to conduct me by a nearer-  
“ and more agreeable passage to my  
“ own lodgings, at the same time that  
“ the overshadowing trees would afford  
“ me shelter from the heat of the sun,  
“ which blazed forth with meridian  
“ fervor ; I entered it without any far-  
“ ther reflection, the gate having been  
“ left open by the negligence of the  
“ porter ; and perceiving that it led  
“ along the outside wall of a garden,  
“ I followed its direction without im-  
“ pediment, till my attention was all at  
“ once arrested by the sound of some  
“ female voices which I heard in an ad-  
“ joining grove. Having come to a  
“ higher part of the avenue, which  
“ rose



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“ rose almost to a level with the wall,  
“ prompted by curiosity, I looked  
“ through a hedge which grew upon  
“ the top of it, and perceived three  
“ ladies sitting in a reclining posture  
“ in the grove, to which they had re-  
“ tired, after bathing in a pond which  
“ was near it. Two of the ladies ha-  
“ ving taken off their veils, appeared  
“ to be very beautiful, though I did  
“ not feel my heart affected by their  
“ charms; the other had not yet disco-  
“ vered her face, but rising from the  
“ bank on which she had been sitting  
“ in the grove, she walked along the  
“ terras, close by the hedge through  
“ which I had been looking at her,  
“ and exhibited to my view the most  
“ graceful shape and deportment I had  
“ ever beheld. Struck with the grace-  
“ fulness of her mien and person, I  
“ followed

“ followed her steps along the outside  
“ wall of the garden, in expectation of  
“ obtaining, by some lucky accident, a  
“ view of her face. At last, feeling  
“ herself a little too warm with the  
“ heat of the sun, she took off her um-  
“ brella, and displayed to my admiring  
“ view a splendor of beauty that might  
“ have vied with that of the daughters  
“ of paradise. I continued for some  
“ time wrapt in astonishment; I gazed  
“ on her charms with rapture and de-  
“ light; I essayed to speak, but sur-  
“ prize, confusion, fear, and respect,  
“ all joined together, restrained my  
“ faltering tongue. I perceived that  
“ love had in one moment taken pos-  
“ session of my heart, and that my at-  
“ tachment to this unknown fair one  
“ had all the ardor and strength of a  
“ deep-rooted passion. I continued  
“ walking

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“ walking on the outside of the garden,  
 “ keeping still in my eye the lady  
 “ whose beauty had so ravished my  
 “ senses, till I observed her enter ano-  
 “ ther arbour at the end of the walk,  
 “ when, taking a book out of her poc-  
 “ ket, she sat down within the arbour,  
 “ and began to read, without seeming to  
 “ have any suspicion of being seen by  
 “ any one. I kept my eyes for some  
 “ time immoveably fixed on this di-  
 “ vine creature, but knew not how to  
 “ find an opportunity of recommending  
 “ myself to her favour, and of decla-  
 “ ring my passion; till happening to  
 “ cast my eye upon a back door, which  
 “ seemed to be half open, I deter-  
 “ mined, after much hesitation, and  
 “ after a severe struggle betwixt the  
 “ fear of offending, and the hope of  
 “ exciting some degree of tenderness



“ and love in the heart of one in whom  
 “ all my happiness was placed, to enter  
 “ the garden. As I approached the  
 “ bower in which this enchanting crea-  
 “ ture reclined, my knees tottered  
 “ under me, scarce able to sustain their  
 “ weight, a sudden tremor seized my  
 “ nerves, and the confusion which  
 “ overspread my mind for some time  
 “ sealed my tongue. Having come  
 “ to the entrance of the arbour, I pro-  
 “ strated myself before her, addressing  
 “ her with a faltering accent: “ Par-  
 “ don, madam, said I, the presump-  
 “ tion of an unfortunate youth, who  
 “ has wandered over a great part of  
 “ the world, but has never, till this  
 “ moment, felt the power of female  
 “ charms; though his heart is now so  
 “ deeply smitten by the lustre of your  
 “ beauty, that he can sooner cease to  
 C “ live

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“live than to love you. Let your be-  
“nignity and pity incline you to for-  
“give an offence which the violence of  
“his passion forced him to commit,  
“and deign to accept of an heart the  
“most constant that ever animated a  
“human breast, which is wholly and  
“only yours.”

“Selima, for that was the name of  
“the lady, eyed me with a mixture of  
“surprize, emotion, and resentment,  
“tempered (as I thought) with some  
“degree of tenderness: and assuming  
“a severity of accent, which however  
“seemed foreign to her natural disposi-  
“tion, “Rash and unthinking man, said  
“she, what ill-fated accident has brought  
“thee to a place, where thy detection  
“would be so dangerous to thyself,  
“and so dishonourable to me? Or what  
“motive could have induced thee to  
“intrude

“intrude upon that privacy which  
“ought to have been held sacred by a  
“respectful lover? As I am apt to  
“impute thy extravagant temerity to  
“an ill-timed passion for me, I am un-  
“willing thou shouldst suffer by an  
“indiscretion of which I myself may  
“have been the cause. If, however,  
“thou hast any regard to my repu-  
“tation, or thy own safety, thou wilt  
“instantly leave this garden.” Ina-  
“gining from the tone of her voice,  
“and from the expression of her eye,  
“that the injunction she had delivered  
“proceeded more from the fear of  
“exposing me to danger, and herself  
“to censure, than from real resentment  
“at my conduct, I replied, “That  
“with regard to my own safety, I was  
“entirely careless about it, while I  
“was engaged in a pursuit far dearer



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“ to me than life, and upon the success  
 “ of which both my life and happi-  
 “ ness depended; that her reputation,  
 “ however with me, outweighed every  
 “ other circumstance; and to shew her,  
 “ how much I was devoted to her  
 “ obedience, I told her, that I would  
 “ that moment leave her presence,  
 “ though it was the most severe  
 “ mortification I could possibly indure,  
 “ in hopes of obtaining some more  
 “ favourable opportunity afterwards of  
 “ declaring the sincerity and fervour  
 “ of a passion, which no time nor  
 “ accident could ever extinguish, or  
 “ abate.”

“ After making this declaration I  
 “ took my leave of Selima in the most  
 “ respectful manner, and returned to  
 “ my own lodgings, with a heart  
 “ entirely

“ entirely engrossed by the charms of  
“ this incomparable fair one, and  
“ wholly devoted to the purpose of  
“ forming an honourable connection  
“ with her, the success of which I per-  
“ ceived to be essential to my happi-  
“ ness. As soon as I arrived at my  
“ own apartments in the city, I made  
“ the most prudent enquiry I could,  
“ concerning the relations of the lady  
“ who had obtained the empire of my  
“ heart, and learnt that she was the  
“ daughter of Ezadallah, one of the  
“ Georgian nobility, a man of strict  
“ probity and honour, and who was  
“ universally respected in the place  
“ where he lived. Having got this intel-  
“ ligence, the next object of my solici-  
“ tude was to get myself properly in-  
“ troduced to Ezadallah, which I easily  
“ obtained by means of Ali Merdan

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“Khan, another Georgian nobleman,  
“with whom I had contracted an ac-  
“quaintance, and who lived in terms of  
“friendship with the father of Selima.  
“Without having as yet discovered  
“my intentions to Ali Merdan Khan  
“I asked him to introduce me to his  
“friend Ezadallah, a request with  
“which he very cheerfully complied;  
“and I was received by that worthy man  
“with all the hospitality and kindness  
“I could desire. On my first visit  
“I was blessed only with a sight of  
“Selima covered with a veil, which,  
“while it admitted of her seeing others,  
“entirely concealed her face from their  
“view. Even this circumstance I  
“considered as an indulgence, it not  
“being the custom in eastern countries  
“for the women to appear among  
“men who are strangers to them;  
“but



“but as Ezadallah was a man much  
“conversant in the world, and whose  
“sentiments were enlarged by a com-  
“prehensive knowledge of the manners  
“and customs of other nations, he  
“allowed his daughter greater liberties  
“in these things than are usually ad-  
“mitted in the East, at the same time  
“that he shewed a regard to the  
“customs of his country so far as to  
“train her up in the practice of wear-  
“ing a veil.

“Though my love was cruelly  
“mortified by this circumstance of her  
“dress, I endeavoured, with all the in-  
“sinuation I was capable of, to recom-  
“mend myself to her regard, in which,  
“I flattered myself, that I was in some  
“degree successful; and having ob-  
“tained an invitation from Ezadallah.

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“to repeat my visits as often as my  
 “conveniency would admit, I took  
 “my leave at this time, determined  
 “to embrace an opportunity very soon  
 “of complying with the invitation I  
 “had received: about two days after I  
 “repaired to the house of Ezadallah,  
 “in expectation of finding some for-  
 “tunate occasion of renewing my ad-  
 “dresses to the lovely Selima, whose  
 “image was impressed upon my soul  
 “in characters that could never be  
 “effaced; but she still continued veiled,  
 “while in company, and I still per-  
 “severed in my endeavours to render  
 “myself agreeable to her by all the  
 “means in my power. After dinner  
 “however she retired from the rest of  
 “the company, and I began to re-  
 “flect, not without a certain fretful-  
 “ness of temper, on the want of a  
 “proper

“ proper opportunity to declare a pas-  
“ sion which occupied my whole heart ;  
“ when, happening to look out at a  
“ window that faced the garden, I ob-  
“ served the mistress of my soul walk-  
“ ing along a terras, and retiring into the  
“ arbour where I had first discovered her.  
“ As soon as I perceived her, my heart  
“ throbbed with hope and fear, with  
“ joy and impatience. Awed by those  
“ sentiments of native modesty which  
“ usually take place in the mind of  
“ a timid, a respectful, and an unex-  
“ perienched lover, I stood irresolute  
“ for a moment, but instigated by the  
“ irresistible impulse of love, I stole  
“ unheeded out of a room, and perceiv-  
“ ing the garden-door open I hurried  
“ into the garden, and walked up hastily  
“ to the bower into which I had ob-  
“ served Selima entering. As I ap-  
“ proached



"proached the plectra the palpitation of  
 "my heart redoubled; and observing  
 "the dear creature in the same posture  
 "in which I had formerly seen her,  
 "Let not my lovely Selima, said I, re-  
 "sent as an intrusion upon her privacy  
 "my embracing the only opportunity  
 "I could obtain of repeating my de-  
 "clarations of an affection for her,  
 "which is as pure and fervent, as it is  
 "steadfast and unalterable. O let my  
 "enchanting fair one reward with  
 "one smile of approbation and com-  
 "placency the passion to which her  
 "beauty has given birth, and allow  
 "me some ground to hope for an  
 "union which will consummate my  
 "felicity.

"Selima, pleased with the ardour  
 "and delicacy of my passion, and even  
 "with

with the confusion and timidity I  
 discovered in my addresses, which  
 to her was a sufficient proof of my  
 "sincerity, corresponded to acquaint  
 me that her heart was not altogether  
 "indifferent to the accomplishments of  
 "which, in her eye, I appeared to be  
 "possessed, and that if, upon a more  
 "particular acquaintance, my character  
 "corresponded to this appearance, and  
 "my proposals were approved of by  
 "her father, perhaps my suit, in the  
 "end, might not prove unsuccessful."  
 "Transported with the intimation she  
 "had given me, I seized her hand once  
 "more, which, with a smile of ineffable  
 "benignity and sweetness, she allowed me  
 "to press to my bosom; and kissing it  
 "with the utmost respect and tender-  
 "ness, I took my leave of my charm-  
 "ing Selima with an exultation and  
 "transport.

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“transport that well nigh endangered  
“my reason. Perceiving that this  
“new attachment, which entirely occu-  
“pied my soul, would necessarily  
“require my staying a considerable  
“time in Tefflis, I immediately dis-  
“charged the servants and camels  
“which I had hired, and devoted my-  
“self wholly to the cares of love.

“With this view I repeated my visits  
“to Ezadallah, the father of Selima,  
“and employed all the arts I was  
“master of in order to ingratiate my-  
“self with him, in which I succeeded  
“so well, that having after a sufficient  
“acquaintance with him disclosed my  
“wishes with respect to Selima, he  
“consented to gratify my desires, pro-  
“vided the match was agreeable  
“to his daughter and approved by my  
“own



" own father. As I enjoyed the hap-  
 " piness of seeing my charming mistress  
 " frequently after this declaration  
 " I had made of my intentions, I had  
 " the good fortune to render myself  
 " so agreeable to her, that an indissoluble  
 " union of our interests was the  
 " object of our mutual and earnest  
 " desires. The only thing wanting to  
 " complete our felicity was the ap-  
 " probation and concurrence of my  
 " father, which I solicited with all the  
 " eloquence and address I was master  
 " of, and which, as the match was no  
 " way discreditable, and was so pas-  
 " sionately desired on my part, I did  
 " not much doubt of obtaining—Hav-  
 " ing charged the messenger whom I  
 " sent with a letter to my father, re-  
 " questing his consent to my union  
 " with Selima, to make all possible  
 " dispatch

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“dispatch on his journey, I spent the in-  
 “termediate time in those innocent en-  
 “deavourments, and in those delightful re-  
 “ciprocalations of love and tenderness  
 “which are the result of a mutual  
 “passion, and which by heightening  
 “our desires of being inseparably uni-  
 “ted to each other, rendered us im-  
 “patient of the least obstruction to  
 “the accomplishment of our wishes.  
 “At last the messenger returned with  
 “an answer to the letter I had written  
 “to my father, conceived in as favour-  
 “able a stile as I could have wished,  
 “intimating, that though he had pro-  
 “jected an union betwixt me and  
 “the lady he had mentioned before  
 “my setting out on my travels, yet  
 “he had always resolved not to interfere  
 “with my own inclinations in a matter  
 “of so much importance to my hap-  
 “piness,

“pines, and, assuring me of his entire  
 “and cheerful concurrence with my  
 “wishes. He concluded with desiring  
 “me to hasten my departure as soon as  
 “possible after the celebration of my  
 “nuptials, as he was desirous of pro-  
 “nouncing his benediction on us both  
 “before his death, which from his  
 “declining state, and from several  
 “symptoms in his case, he said, he  
 “was inclined to believe was at no  
 “great distance.”

“The information I had received  
 “of my father’s dangerous state of  
 “health alarmed and affected me ex-  
 “ceedingly, and the remembrance of  
 “his condescending indulgence, his  
 “paternal affection, and his earnest  
 “solicitude for my happiness, awakened  
 “at once all my tenderness and grief  
 “at



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“ at the thoughts of losing a parent  
 “ who was so justly dear to me. I imme-  
 “ diately communicated the letter I had  
 “ received to Selima, who participated  
 “ in my sorrow, and we agreed to defer  
 “ the celebration of our marriage till after  
 “ our arrival at Kerman, for which in  
 “ two days we set out, accompanied with  
 “ Mortiza Cauli, the brother of Selima,  
 “ who agreed to accompany us on our  
 “ journey. We travelled for several days  
 “ with great expedition, and without  
 “ meeting with any remarkable accident;  
 “ but when we where within two days  
 “ journey of Kerman, I received the  
 “ melancholy account of my father’s  
 “ death. This intimation renewed my  
 “ grief for the loss of so kind and so  
 “ worthy a parent; which however  
 “ was greatly mitigated by the tender  
 “ and soothing sympathy of Selima,  
 “ whose

“ whose endearing society could alone  
“ comfort me under the affliction I had  
“ sustained. After receiving this  
“ melancholy news, I hastened along  
“ with Selima and her brother to Ker-  
“ man, in order to pay the last duty to  
“ the memory of the deceased, whose  
“ urn I bedewed with the tears of un-  
“ feigned sorrow. Having spent the  
“ usual time in mourning, and having  
“ given vent to the emotions of nature  
“ in the genuine expressions of heart-  
“ felt grief, for the loss of a parent whom  
“ I equally revered and loved, I  
“ recovered by degrees my former  
“ tranquillity, and began to think  
“ of accomplishing that union with  
“ Selima, the prospect of which con-  
“ stituted the chief happiness of my  
“ life. But let those in whose memories  
“ is registered the series of my misfor-  
“ tunes,

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"tunes, learn from these the instability  
 "of human happiness, which, though  
 "heedless mortals fancy to be solid  
 "and permanent as the strong-banded  
 "promontory of the Hellespont, that  
 "stands unshaken amidst the roar  
 "and dashing of the waves of the  
 "Archipelago, is tottering as the broken  
 "fragment of a tower which falls  
 "from the ruined domes of Palmyra  
 "on the head of the unhappy traveller,  
 "and instantly crushes him to pieces.  
 "I was just upon the point of effectuating  
 "this long-desired union, when  
 "an accident fell out, which blasted  
 "the blossoms of my hope, and involved  
 "us all in a train of misfortunes  
 "which were equally severe and  
 "irremediable.  
 "Savi



“Savi Mustapha, the father of Abbas-  
“fah, having heard that I brought a  
“young lady along with me, and prob-  
“ably having heard that I intended  
“to marry her as soon as the time of  
“mourning for my father was expired,  
“wrote me a letter, intimating that my  
“father had entered into a treaty of  
“marriage betwixt his daughter and  
“me, and had engaged that it should  
“be fulfilled on my part upon my re-  
“turn to my native country; that he  
“supposed I had been acquainted of,  
“and had concurred with the views of  
“the deceased, and that he hoped to  
“find me as ardently desirous as my  
“father had been, of contracting an  
“alliance which was equally creditable  
“and advantageous to both parties,  
“and which would unite their families  
“in

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“ in the bonds of consanguinity” and  
 “ friendship.

“ This proposal, it may easily be  
 “ imagined, could make no impression  
 “ on the mind of one who was wholly  
 “ devoted to Selima, and whom all the  
 “ gold of Golconda and the diadem of  
 “ Persia could not have tempted to  
 “ have relinquished the object of his  
 “ choice. I had a curiosity however  
 “ to try its effect on Selima, and taking  
 “ her aside, put the letter into her  
 “ hand, desiring her to read it. After  
 “ perusing the letter she returned it,  
 “ casting upon me at the same time  
 “ a tender, pensive, and dejected look ;  
 “ which at once expressed affection,  
 “ timidity, and a sense of dependence  
 “ accompanied with a certain delicacy  
 “ of sentiment which seemed to restrain  
 “ her

“ her from exerting the influence she  
 “ possessed to secure the empire of  
 “ my heart. I felt myself thrilled with  
 “ her look, but desirous of trying her  
 “ still farther, “ What, said, I does  
 “ my Selima think of this letter ?”  
 “ The question seemed to surprize her  
 “ a good deal, and threw her into the  
 “ most lovely confusion and embarrass-  
 “ ment; recovering herself however  
 “ a little; “ What, replies she, is  
 “ Rehedi’s own opinion of it? The  
 “ proposed match appears to me,  
 “ added she, to be too advantageous  
 “ to be rejected by an ambitious young  
 “ man, who, by such an alliance, has  
 “ it in his power to increase his for-  
 “ tune and aggrandize his family at  
 “ once.” “ And does Selima wish,  
 “ said I, that I should pursue the path  
 “ of ambition by the means she has  
 “ sug-



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“ suggested?” Selima rejoined, “ The  
 “ lovely maid forms no other wish  
 “ with respect to Rhedi, but that  
 “ he may follow the bent of his own  
 “ inclinations, and consult his own  
 “ happiness without any regard to her,  
 “ who, if he is happier in the possession  
 “ of Abbassiah than of Selima, will  
 “ return with her brother to her native  
 “ country, putting up her ardent vows  
 “ to heaven for a continuance of hap-  
 “ piness to one whom she once tenderly  
 “ loved, and whom, alas! perhaps she  
 “ may never be able to forget.” At these  
 “ words the tear started into her eye,  
 “ and trickled down her cheek. I  
 “ was unable to contain myself longer,  
 “ clasping her therefore to my bosom  
 “ in an ecstasy of tenderness and rapture,  
 “ forgive, said I, dearest creature, the  
 “ artifice I made use of to try the  
 “ strength

" strength and delicacy of thy affection,  
 " which was not suggested by any  
 " doubt of its reality, but by a curiosity  
 " I felt to explore its effects. Be assured  
 " of it, thou sole, unrivalled mistress  
 " of my heart, that were all the treasures  
 " and kingdoms of the world laid at  
 " my feet, and all the beauties of the  
 " universe ranged before me for my  
 " selection, the possession of all these  
 " could never alienate my constant  
 " heart from thee, in whom all my  
 " wishes center and in whom alone my  
 " felicity is complete.

" After we had both given vent for  
 " sometime to the most pleasing emotions  
 " that the human heart is susceptible  
 " of, Selima expressed her apprehen-  
 " sions, lest I should shock and offend  
 " the pride of one of the most potent  
 " beglerbegs

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“ beglerbegs of Persia, by declining a  
 “ match which had been under delibe-  
 “ ration betwixt him and my father,  
 “ and was now proposed by Savi  
 “ Mustapha himself. In order to  
 “ remove her apprehensions therefore  
 “ as much as possible, I promised to  
 “ write to him in the most prudent and  
 “ respectful manner; for though I had  
 “ reason to believe that he could scarce  
 “ expect that I should conclude a  
 “ match which, he himself knew, I  
 “ was brought under no obligation  
 “ to from any engagement of my  
 “ father, and which, considering the  
 “ attachment I was known to have to  
 “ Selima, he must have been convinced  
 “ I would be utterly averse to; and  
 “ though I had likewise reason to  
 “ believe, that in these circumstances  
 “ the principal motive of Savi Musta-  
 “ pha



“ pha, in proposing the match, could  
 “ only be to obtain from my refusal a  
 “ pretext for quarrelling with me; yet  
 • “ I thought it was in every respect  
 “ the wisest course to avoid, if possi-  
 “ ble, exasperating a man, who might,  
 “ in the friendless and unsupported  
 “ state I was now in, have it in his  
 “ power to subject me to the severest  
 “ hardships. I wrote him therefore that  
 “ I was extremely sensible of the  
 “ honour he intended me by the alliance  
 “ he proposed, of which I should ever  
 “ retain the most grateful remembrance;  
 “ but that I should be utterly unwor-  
 “ thy of his esteem and friendship, if  
 “ I accepted of his proposal by giving  
 “ my hand where it was not possible  
 “ for me to bestow my heart. I ob-  
 “ served that our affections were not  
 “ in our own power, that mine were

D

already

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“ already unalterably fixed on a lady  
 “ whom I had brought with me from  
 “ her native country, and that I could  
 “ not violate these engagements with-  
 “ out being guilty at the same time of  
 “ a breach of the most sacred ties of  
 “ love, honour, and gratitude. I con-  
 “ cluded with wishing his daughter a  
 “ husband more worthy of her, and  
 “ who could return her affection with  
 “ equal sincerity and ardour; begging  
 “ he would excuse me for declining a  
 “ match, which I was perfectly consci-  
 “ ous would have been equally credit-  
 “ able and advantageous, could I have  
 “ accepted of his generous offer con-  
 “ sistently with the dictates of fidelity  
 “ and honour. This answer, though  
 “ sufficiently soothing and respectful,  
 “ greatly shocked the pride and in-  
 “ flamed the resentment of the haughty  
 “ beg-

“ beglerbeg, who, as I have already  
 “ observed, seemed only to want a  
 “ pretext for quarrelling with me;  
 “ and indeed he soon made me feel  
 “ the weight of his resentment, by  
 “ bringing upon me a series of calami-  
 “ ties, that were as unexpected as they  
 “ were severe.

“ The grand Vizier Aman Ola,  
 “ who was the friend and patron of  
 “ Savi Mustapha, was at that time on  
 “ a tour through the southern depart-  
 “ ment of Persia, under a pretence of  
 “ redressing the grievances which had  
 “ been complained of, and settling the  
 “ commotions that had been raised,  
 “ though in fact the sole intent of his  
 “ expedition was to discover the authors  
 “ of the opposition that had been  
 “ made to his own tyrannical admini-  
 D 2                      “ stration,



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“ stration, that he might contrive the  
 “ means of cutting them off while  
 “ Aman Ola was at Kerman: he lodged  
 “ in the house of Savi Mustapha,  
 “ who took that opportunity of repre-  
 “ senting me to the Vizier as disaffected  
 “ to his administration, informing him  
 “ at the same time that my father had  
 “ left me an opulent fortune, which  
 “ might easily be confiscated and appli-  
 “ ed to his own use, upon a pretence  
 “ of its being acquired by fraud and  
 “ oppression. Nothing more was  
 “ wanting to make the Vizier enter into  
 “ this scheme, than to hear that, by  
 “ the success of it, he could not fail  
 “ very considerably to increase his over-  
 “ grown fortune; accordingly, actuated  
 “ as he was at once by two of the  
 “ most powerful springs of human con-  
 “ duct, avarice and revenge, he instantly  
 “ commenced

“ commenced a suit in the name of  
 “ the emperor his master against me,  
 “ upon an allegation of my father’s  
 “ fortune being acquired by injustice;  
 “ and having suborned witnesses in  
 “ concert with Savi Mustapha to prove  
 “ the facts he alledged, I was instantly  
 “ bereaved of my paternal estate  
 “ under the colour of law, though  
 “ that estate was the reward of honest  
 “ industry and frugality, and was  
 “ earned by my father with the  
 “ general esteem and good-will of the  
 “ inhabitants of the province in which  
 “ he resided.

“ Merciful Allah! exclaimed Amur,  
 “ how long wilt thou suffer that mon-  
 “ ster of wickedness to triumph in his  
 “ crimes? Is not the measure of his  
 “ iniquities yet full? Surely thou hast

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“ destined him, as thou dost plagues  
“ and earthquakes, to be thine instru-  
“ ment for inflicting punishment on  
“ the children of men? But why dost  
“ thou permit the innocent to suffer  
“ with the guilty? Why should the  
“ worthy and the good be subjected  
“ to the persecution of a wretch whom  
“ his flagitiousness has rendered an  
“ object of general detestation and  
“ abhorrence? . . .

“ What you have heard,” resumed  
Rhedi, “ is but a small part of that  
“ series of calamity which I have been  
“ doomed to endure; the remaining  
“ part will draw the tear of pity from  
“ the humid eye, and make the sym-  
“ pathetic bosom heave with the sigh  
“ of sorrow.—The malicious Savi  
“ Mustapha, and his cruel accomplice  
“ in



“ in villainy, not contented with strip-  
 “ ping me of all my paternal inheri-  
 “ tance, meditated a much severer  
 “ blow against me than poverty or  
 “ death itself, by ravishing from me  
 “ the sole delight of my heart, my  
 “ dear Selima, for whom alone I  
 “ wished to live; which was effec-  
 “ tuated with such violence and out-  
 “ rage as I yet shudder to relate. I  
 “ was so aware of the danger of di-  
 “ vulging a report concerning Selima’s  
 “ beauty while we were unmarried, and  
 “ so much afraid of her being gazed  
 “ at with the eye of desire, that I had  
 “ prevailed with her to continue veiled,  
 “ both in the presence of our sex and  
 “ of her own. It happened however  
 “ unfortunately, that a maid, whom  
 “ Selima had brought along with her  
 “ from Georgia, having one day taken

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“ occasion, without any design, to cele-  
“ brate the charms of her mistress be-  
“ fore some of the servants of Savi  
“ Mustapha, with whom she had got  
“ acquainted, one of them repeated to  
“ his master the report he had heard  
“ of Selima’s beauty. Mustapha took  
“ an opportunity of mentioning to the  
“ Vizier what he had heard; and both  
“ of them, stimulated partly by curio-  
“ sity, and partly by resentment, con-  
“ curred in a resolution, without any  
“ ceremony, of tearing off her veil by  
“ violence; and if she answered to the  
“ description which had been given of  
“ her, of carrying her off by force.  
“ In order to gratify their brutal cu-  
“ riosity of obtaining a sight of Selima,  
“ they bribed a maid-servant who  
“ came along with her from Tefflis,  
“ but who was ignorant of their real  
“ design,

“ design, to admit them, by a private  
 “ door, into a garden at the back of  
 “ my father’s house, at a certain  
 “ hour, when they knew she usually  
 “ walked there; and having observed  
 “ her from an eminence at some dis-  
 “ tance, which overlooked the garden,  
 “ reposing herself on a sloping bank  
 “ near the door at which they were to  
 “ enter, along with the maid who  
 “ usually attended her, they repaired  
 “ immediately to the door, and turning  
 “ the bolt softly, entered without ob-  
 “ servation, leaving a guard to rescue  
 “ them in case of danger, or to assist  
 “ them in carrying off their prize; then  
 “ tripping up quickly, but with as  
 “ little noise as possible, to Selima,  
 “ whose back happened to be turned  
 “ towards them, Mustapha tore the  
 “ veil from her face, before she sus-  
 “ pected any danger; and the unhappy



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“ fair one, whose mind was thrown  
 “ into a wild flutter of astonishment  
 “ and terror by the indignity that had  
 “ been shewn her, giving a loud shriek,  
 “ which was heard by her brother and  
 “ me from the house, we both started  
 “ up in an instant, and snatching our  
 “ swords hastily, ran to the place  
 “ where we heard the voice. You  
 “ may judge of the emotion I felt (for  
 “ it is impossible to describe it) when,  
 “ upon my coming up to the spot, to  
 “ which we were directed by the pier-  
 “ cing screams of Selima and her  
 “ maid, whose voices by this time we  
 “ began to recognize, I saw the dear  
 “ object of my affections in the arms  
 “ of my greatest enemy, and violently  
 “ dragged away by the Vizier and  
 “ Savi Mustapha, who were protected  
 “ in their infamous enterprize by the  
 “ guard

“ guard which had been posted at the  
 “ door, but which had now entered  
 “ the garden, in consequence of a con-  
 “ certed signal that had been given  
 “ them, in order to assist in carrying  
 “ off Selima, and to defend them from  
 “ any assault that might be made  
 “ upon them while they were exe-  
 “ cuting their design. Roused to the  
 “ utmost pitch of resentment and fury,  
 “ I sprung upon the wretches who had  
 “ committed this outrage, like a bear  
 “ robbed of her whelps, and directing  
 “ my vengeance in the first place against  
 “ Mustapha, whom I considered as the  
 “ author of it, I plunged my sword in  
 “ an instant into his heart, and laid  
 “ him dead at my feet. Mortiza  
 “ Couli, actuated by the same passions  
 “ of grief and rage with which I was  
 “ agitated, rushed at once into the  
 D 6 “ midst

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" midst of the guard ; two of whom  
 " he dispatched with his sword ; but  
 " alas ! the brave unhappy youth, in  
 " attempting to save his sister's honour,  
 " lost his own life ; for as he was aim-  
 " ing a blow at the Vizier, he re-  
 " ceived a mortal wound in the breast  
 " from one of his attendants, and ex-  
 " pired in a few minutes upon the  
 " spot. The Vizier seeing Mortiza  
 " Couli fall by the wound he had re-  
 " ceived, called to the rest of his  
 " guard to take and disarm me, if pos-  
 " sible ; and two of them having, be-  
 " fore I was aware, got hold of both  
 " my arms, they all immediately  
 " closed upon me, and having dis-  
 " armed and bound me, I was sent  
 " without delay to a strong prison,  
 " where the Vizier ordered I should be  
 " confined till his further pleasure  
 " should



“ should be known. When I perceived  
 “ myself in the power of my enemies,  
 “ and that I was going instantly to be  
 “ separated from Selima, and probably  
 “ for ever, all the passions which can  
 “ agitate and tear the human heart  
 “ arose in my mind at once.--Love, rage,  
 “ jealousy, hatred, terror, and despair  
 “ alternately reigned and mingled with  
 “ each other in my soul, in their utmost  
 “ fury, and produced a conflict, whose  
 “ violence roused me to phrenzy, and  
 “ almost terminated in my dissolution.  
 “ I roared with the intolerable anguish  
 “ which wrung my heart; I exclaimed,  
 “ I adjured, I implored, I threatened,  
 “ I imprecated the vengeance of hea-  
 “ ven on the barbarous wretch who  
 “ was the cause of this cruel separation;  
 “ but all was in vain; I was carried  
 “ away violently to prison; and as I  
 “ was

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“ was dragged along, I continued  
 “ looking behind me, and calling upon  
 “ the name of Selima, till my cries  
 “ could no more be heard. I was  
 “ thrown into a dungeon, dark and  
 “ dismal as the mansions of the grave,  
 “ where I lay in an agony of grief, that  
 “ tortured my soul, and consumed my  
 “ life. For some time I continued  
 “ abandoned to the most dreadful and  
 “ cruel despair, arraigning the justice  
 “ of Providence, upon account of the  
 “ calamities to which I was subjected ;  
 “ but at last reason returned, and reli-  
 “ gion began to dawn upon my  
 “ gloomy and troubled mind, shedding  
 “ an effulgence, mild as the appearance  
 “ of the vernal sun after the ravages  
 “ of a storm, and chasing away the  
 “ horrors of despair, as the fogs which  
 “ blast the blossoms of the spring are  
 “ scat-

“ scattered by the splendor of the orb  
 “ of day. Along with religion, for-  
 “ titude and hope, her invariable at-  
 “ tendants, possessed my breast; and  
 “ actuated as I was on the one hand by  
 “ an intrepid resolution of braving  
 “ every danger, and on the other by a  
 “ stedfast trust in Providence for ac-  
 “ complishing my deliverance; at the  
 “ same time that I was animated with  
 “ the strongest desires of once more  
 “ seeing Selima, desires which were  
 “ now inspirited with the ardor of  
 “ hope, I was determined to attempt  
 “ every expedient for my release which  
 “ my imagination could suggest; tho’  
 “ I had as yet fixed upon none which  
 “ seemed at once safe and practicable.  
 “ But the ever merciful Allah, to  
 “ whose care and protection I resigned  
 “ myself and all my interests, and  
 “ whose



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“ whose reinvigorating influence I felt  
“ upon my mind, condescended, by an  
“ intimation which seemed to be the  
“ effect of accident, to point out the  
“ means of accomplishing my escape  
“ from that horrible prison in which I  
“ was confined.

“ As I was one day lying stretched,  
“ on a coarse mattress which served for  
“ my bed, and revolving in my mind  
“ every scheme that I could think of for  
“ effectuating my deliverance, I happen-  
“ ed to cast my eye on a square stone in  
“ the floor of the prison, by the side of  
“ which stone there seemed to be a small  
“ aperture, and what both astonished  
“ and delighted me was, that I thought  
“ I perceived a faint glimmering of  
“ light through the interstice. Insti-  
“ gated by curiosity, and elated with  
“ joyful

“joyful expectation of making some  
“discovery that might facilitate my  
“escape, I sprung from my bed with  
“eager impatience, and having dug  
“up with a knife which I had in my  
“pocket a good deal of earth from  
“the side of the stone, till I had made  
“room to admit my hands below it,  
“I at last raised it with some diffi-  
“culty, and observed that the removal  
“of the stone opened a passage into  
“a dark and narrow cave, which had  
“been scooped out of the earth with  
“incredible labour, by a person who  
“had been confined a few weeks be-  
“fore in the dungeon in which I was,  
“for a capital crime, but had by this  
“stratagem eluded the sword of justice.  
“I entered the cave with a kind of un-  
“usual dread, mixed with joy, at the  
“possibility of finding an outlet from

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“ my doleful prison, and groping my  
 “ way in the dark, in the best manner  
 “ I was able, I at length discovered a  
 “ ray of light issuing through a cre-  
 “ vice betwixt two stones in the street ;  
 “ but as it was now mid-day, I had  
 “ presence of mind enough to recol-  
 “ lect, that if I should immediately  
 “ attempt to force my passage, by re-  
 “ moving the stones which covered the  
 “ outlet of the cave, I should inevitably  
 “ be discovered, and preclude all hopes  
 “ of my release. As the hour there-  
 “ fore of my being visited by the  
 “ keeper of the prison, when he brought  
 “ me my scanty pittance of provisions,  
 “ was near at hand, I hastened back  
 “ to my dungeon, and having re-  
 “ placed the stone exactly in the situa-  
 “ tion in which it had been before my  
 “ discovery of this subterraneous pas-  
 “ sage,



“ sage, and trampled down the earth  
“ around the sides of it, I waited for  
“ the approach of evening with an im-  
“ patience proportionable to my ardent  
“ desires of being released from the  
“ most cruel and dreadful captivity.  
“ At last night spread her dark robe  
“ over the earth, the inhabitants of  
“ Kerman were lulled in slumber, and  
“ echo herself slept in her cell. I haf-  
“ tily removed the stone in the prison  
“ which was laid over the entrance of  
“ the cave; I once more entered this  
“ dismal passage, with less dread in-  
“ deed than formerly, but with a pal-  
“ pitation of heart that made my knees  
“ smite each other, and having groped  
“ my way as before, though with more  
“ difficulty, as there was not the least  
“ ray of light to be seen, I arrived at  
“ the end of the passage, and pushing  
“ the

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“ the stones which were above my  
“ head with my utmost strength, I  
“ removed one of them, and having  
“ with some difficulty pressed through  
“ the hole, I found myself all at once  
“ in the open street.

“ You may easily imagine the trans-  
“ port I was in upon this unexpected  
“ recovery of my liberty; my heart  
“ bounded with joy, and I offered up  
“ my grateful and ardent vows to Al-  
“ lah, for thus condescending to  
“ point out the means of my deliver-  
“ ance. But when that ecstacy of plea-  
“ sure which had for a moment wrap-  
“ ped my senses in the most enchant-  
“ ing delirium, and suspended the  
“ exercise of reason, had at last sub-  
“ sided, and given place to the dictates  
“ of sober reflexion, my anxiety for the  
“ honour

" honour and safety of Selima recurred  
 " upon my mind with redoubled sen-  
 " sibility; and the dangers to which  
 " my imagination represented her as  
 " exposed, as well as the improbability  
 " of recovering her again, in the situa-  
 " tion in which I now was, rendered  
 " me totally insensible of the happiness  
 " which I should otherwise have expe-  
 " rienced in my being released from  
 " my deplorable captivity. Selima was  
 " the constant object of my thoughts,  
 " all my desires and wishes centered in  
 " her, and yet I could see no rational  
 " foundation for the hope of her being  
 " ever restored to my arms. Almost  
 " despairing of being ever blest with a  
 " sight of her who was dearer to me  
 " than life, I wandered with a slow and  
 " melancholy step through the streets  
 " of Kerman, abandoned to the most  
 " " exces-



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“ excessive grief, without knowing  
“ whither I went, till the approach of  
“ dawn roused me from my reverie,  
“ and made me sensible that it was ne-  
“ cessary to take some precaution for  
“ my own safety. For this purpose I  
“ hastened out of the city as fast as  
“ possible, and directing my course by  
“ the least-frequented road, I arrived  
“ at a village about ten miles distance  
“ from the city, where I thought I  
“ was in little danger of being known,  
“ especially after some years absence  
“ from my native country.

“ In order however more effectually  
“ to guard against a detection, I pur-  
“ chased some coarse cloaths with a  
“ part of the little money I still had in  
“ my pocket, and arraying myself in  
“ the habit of a peasant, I proceeded  
“ on

“ on my journey towards Ispahan,  
“ where my father had several friends  
“ of rank and credit, to whom I pro-  
“ posed to make myself known, and  
“ whose advice and assistance I hoped  
“ to obtain in the present unfortunate  
“ situation of my affairs. What deter-  
“ mined me to take this course was,  
“ that I had learnt in the village which  
“ I had left, that the Vizier, after  
“ shutting me up in prison, set out im-  
“ mediately with Selima for the ca-  
“ pital, intending, as I was fully per-  
“ suaded, to present her to the em-  
“ peror. As I was informed in some  
“ villages through which I passed, that  
“ the Vizier having heard of my escape,  
“ had set a price upon my head, I took  
“ all the precautions which prudence  
“ could suggest for my own safety, by  
“ travelling the most unfrequented  
“ roads,

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“ roads, and often taking shelter in the  
 “ woods and mountains, where I ap-  
 “ prehended the least danger of being  
 “ discovered, till at last I arrived at  
 , “ Ispahan, without any suspicion;  
 “ where I waited upon two of my fa-  
 “ ther’s friends, and acquainted them of  
 “ my situation and errand at the court  
 “ of Persia. But both of them, afraid  
 “ to engage in an affair, the issue of  
 “ which, to say the truth, was ex-  
 “ tremely dangerous and doubtful,  
 “ since no redress could be obtained  
 “ without arraigning the prime Vizier  
 “ himself, and charging him with the  
 “ most enormous crimes, advised me  
 “ to desist from an attempt which,  
 “ however just, was attended with so  
 “ much hazard as indeed could scarce  
 “ fail to bring accumulated vengeance  
 “ upon my own head, and upon those  
 “ of



" of my friends. They urged me to  
 " think no more of Selima, whom I  
 " could have no prospect of recovering,  
 " and gave it as their opinion that I  
 " should assume the habit and character  
 " of a travelling merchant, generously  
 " proposing to supply me with money,  
 " and support me with their credit in  
 " the pursuit of this new occupation.  
 " Though this advice seemed to be  
 " rational, and was doubtless well  
 " meant, yet the conduct it prescribed  
 " was too phlegmatic and indifferent  
 " to suit the ardor of my passion for  
 " Selima; for the hopes of regaining  
 " whom I determined to suffer every  
 " hardship, and run every risk that I  
 " could possibly be exposed to. Per-  
 " ceiving, however, that the profession  
 " of a merchant would, by procuring

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" me

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" me access to several persons who at-  
 " tended the court, afford me a better  
 " chance of seeing Selima, at least of  
 " obtaining intelligence of her, than  
 " any other profession I could assume,  
 " I readily acquiesced in their senti-  
 " ments, though with very different  
 " views from those of my friends;  
 " and having once more changed my  
 " garb, I appeared in the dress of a  
 " merchant; and, supported as I was by  
 " the interest of those who had proposed  
 " that I should try my fortune this  
 " way, I exposed some of the richest  
 " silks and jewels that could be pro-  
 " cured, in the usual place of sale,  
 " carefully avoiding every opportunity  
 " of being seen by the Vizier, by re-  
 " tiring under some pretence when he  
 " happened to appear, and giving  
 " orders to a person to whose care I  
 " com-

" committed my commodities to ma-  
 " nage the sale till my return. While  
 " I was one day unfolding a bale of  
 " silk at the desire of a purchaser, I  
 " observed a person eyeing me as he  
 " passed with a steadfastness and atten-  
 " tion that greatly disconcerted me.  
 " Upon enquiry, I found that the per-  
 " son who had viewed me so particu-  
 " larly was Obeyd, chief eunuch to the  
 " Sophy; a discovery that increased  
 " my embarrassment and confusion.  
 " Obeyd, observing my countenance  
 " overspread with blushes, came up to  
 " me immediately, and whispered in  
 " a low voice, " Be not afraid," said  
 " he, " of any evil from me. My  
 " name is Obeyd, and my office is to  
 " superintend the women and eunuchs  
 " in the haram. Your father Abusaid  
 " was one of my best friends: I am



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“not ignorant of your situation and  
“circumstances: I will be happy to  
“have it in my power to show my gra-  
“titude to the father, by good offices  
“to the son.—Come this evening, at  
“the usual hour of supper, to my  
“house in the habit which you now  
“wear, without any fear of a disco-  
“very, and perhaps I may contribute  
“to the success of your wishes.” At  
“these words I experienced a sudden  
“transition from the most alarming  
“fear to the most unbounded confi-  
“dence and most exquisite joy I had  
“ever felt, and I could only just so  
“far recollect myself, as to be able to  
“reply, in the same low tone of voice,  
“that I was inexpressibly obliged to  
“his friendship, that he should ever  
“find me grateful, and that I would  
“be

“ be sure to wait upon him at the hour  
 “ appointed.

“ After his departure, I began to call  
 “ to remembrance a slave, of the name  
 “ of Obeyd, whom my father had pur-  
 “ chased, and whom, on account of  
 “ his faithful services, he had restored  
 “ to liberty; and in the countenance  
 “ of the person who had just left me, I  
 “ recognized the features of the honest  
 “ slave. I remembered likewise that  
 “ I had heard that Obeyd had entered  
 “ into the service of the Sophy, though  
 “ by reason of my absence from my  
 “ native country for some years I had  
 “ not heard of the dignity to which he  
 “ was raised; and if any thing had  
 “ been wanting to remove my fears,  
 “ and increase my confidence, the cha-  
 “ racter of Obeyd was sufficient to do

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“ it; for I reflected that I had often  
“ heard my father speak of his invio-  
“ lable fidelity, and I knew that he  
“ gave him the strongest recommenda-  
“ tions on his leaving his service.

“ I waited for the hour appointed  
“ for our interview with almost as  
“ much impatience as if I had expected  
“ to see Selima herself; for I flattered  
“ myself that this interview would af-  
“ ford me the prospect of being once  
“ more blessed with a sight of the dear  
“ object of my affections; and when it  
“ expired, I hurried away with the ut-  
“ most eagerness to the house of Obeyd.  
“ I was not obliged to wait long for  
“ the appearance of my friendly host:  
“ upon hearing that I was in the par-  
“ lour below, he hastened immediately  
“ into the room, and embracing me  
“ with



" with the most cordial joy, " I am  
 " happy, my dear Rhedi," said he, " in  
 " this opportunity of seeing the son of  
 " my worthy friend and benefactor  
 " Abusaid, and I should be still hap-  
 " pier to be able to repay you the many  
 " kindnesses I have received from him.  
 " I am but too well acquainted with  
 " your misfortunes, and I most sin-  
 " cerely sympathize with you under  
 " them : I know not whether it will be  
 " in my power to relieve you from  
 " their pressure, but I will at least at-  
 " tempt it, dangerous as I am sensible  
 " the undertaking must be to myself.  
 " In the mean time be assured, that  
 " Selima, though she continues aban-  
 " doned to the most excessive grief,  
 " upon account of the separation from  
 " her lover, has preserved her honour  
 " inviolate : to-morrow you shall enjoy

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“ the happiness of seeing her, and I will  
“ let you know in proper time the hour  
“ and place of the destined interview.”

“ I attempted to repeat my acknow-  
“ ledgments for the very friendly in-  
“ tentions he expressed, and for the  
“ strong interest he took in the suffer-  
“ ings of two such unfortunate lovers ;  
“ but he prevented me from going on,  
“ by telling me, that there was no  
“ occasion for making any professions  
“ of gratitude to him, since he would  
“ think himself completely rewarded,  
“ if he should be happy enough to be  
“ the instrument of accomplishing  
“ the release of Selima, and of restor-  
“ ing her to one who was worthy of  
“ her, and who, by being the sole object  
“ of her affections, had the only title  
“ to possess them. Besides, though  
“ your

“ your own merit and sufferings, added  
 “ he, had not interested me in your  
 “ fate, the remembrance I have of the  
 “ obligations I owe to your father’s  
 “ service determined me to exert my  
 “ utmost endeavours to gratify your  
 “ desires. While I continued in your  
 “ father’s service, I was treated rather  
 “ with the kindness and indulgence  
 “ shewn to a child, than with the  
 “ haughtiness and severity usually ex-  
 “ ercised towards a slave, and at last,  
 “ as a reward for my faithful services,  
 “ he not only gave me my freedom,  
 “ but recommended me to the Sophy,  
 “ by whose favour I rose to several  
 “ posts of considerable trust and dignity.  
 “ Happy had it been for myself, that I  
 “ had prescribed bounds to my ambi-  
 “ tion; or at least that I had taught  
 “ it to flow in the channel marked out



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“ by your father. I have had great rea-  
 “ son to repent my not having followed  
 “ his advice; for though in the path  
 “ chalked out by myself, I have attained  
 “ an envied pre-eminence, I have found  
 “ it a very dangerous one; since my  
 “ office not only obliges me to be often  
 “ under the eye of a master whose  
 “ temper is suspicious and whose power  
 “ is absolute, but my situation furnishes  
 “ me with almost perpetual incentives  
 “ to desires which I cannot restrain,  
 “ and yet am unable to gratify, at  
 “ the same time that I am subjected  
 “ to the caprices of female tyranny,  
 “ which I can only revenge by a stricter  
 “ vigilance, and by that rigid severity  
 “ which will always be disagreeable to  
 “ a generous mind. Be assured of it  
 “ however, my dear Rhedi, that how-  
 “ ever strictly I may watch over the  
 “ conduct of many of the ladies of  
 “ the

“ the haram, whose infamous amours  
“ deserve detection and punishment,  
“ I will do all in my power to contribute  
“ to the success of your passion for  
“ Selima, which, as it meets with such  
“ a fervent return upon her part, it  
“ were a pity it should not be rewarded  
“ with the mutual possession of each  
“ other. As you wish to obtain this  
“ happiness, take care that you be  
“ not seen by the Vizier, or any whom  
“ you have reason to suspect to be  
“ his emissaries; if this should hap-  
“ pen, you are undone. In order there-  
“ fore to prevent your being known  
“ or distinguished, you must for the  
“ present resolve to give up your  
“ mercantile profession, and never stir  
“ abroad without the utmost caution,  
“ and when I have concerted measures  
“ for your seeing Selima, I will call

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“ for you at your lodgings, in order  
“ to acquaint you of the time.”

“ I thanked Obeyd for his prudent  
“ advice, which I promised invariably  
“ to follow; then taking an oppor-  
“ tunity of introducing a conversation,  
“ which to me was peculiarly interest-  
“ ing, Obeyd, said I, since you have  
“ condescended to favour with your  
“ protection and friendship, one who,  
“ till he saw you, was the unhappiest of  
“ mortals, will you excuse my desire to  
“ know the particulars of Selima’s fate,  
“ and how she has been able in the  
“ place where she now is, to preserve  
“ her virtue inviolate from the assaults  
“ of ungovernable passion armed with  
“ absolute power.” “ I readily excuse  
“ your anxiety,” replied he, “ and will  
“ gratify it immediately.”

“ When



“ When Selima was brought into  
 “ the presence of the Sophy and her veil  
 “ was unmoved, she appeared drowned  
 “ in tears; but her tears, instead of  
 “ diminishing, seemed to increase the  
 “ lustre of her beauty, which shone  
 “ through the pearly drops that trickled  
 “ down her cheeks, as the sun shines  
 “ forth after the showers of spring.  
 “ The emperor, dazzled by the splendor  
 “ of her charms, and at once overcome  
 “ by the power of love, resigned him-  
 “ self wholly to the empire of this plea-  
 “ sing but tormenting passion, making it  
 “ his sole study to conciliate those affec-  
 “ tions, which he perceived to be placed  
 “ on another object. He has never  
 “ intermitted his addresses, however,  
 “ but urges his suit with the most  
 “ fervent importunity. While he was  
 “ yesterday pleading for a return to his  
 “ passion with all the respect and ardour  
 “ of

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“ of an enraptured lover, Selima,  
“ prostrating herself at his feet, ex-  
“ claimed with the utmost earnestness,”  
“ —Let not the successor of Ali, and  
“ the sovereign of the faithful, on  
“ whose nod depends the fate of  
“ nations, and for whose smiles the  
“ greatest beauties of the universe  
“ languish with desire, look with such  
“ complacency on a reptile of the dust,  
“ or throw away his regard on one  
“ alienated heart, but let him leave his  
“ slave, who is unworthy of his notice,  
“ to her own unhappy fate, till death  
“ put a period to her life and misery  
“ at once.”—Upon hearing this account  
“ of the constancy of Selima, and  
“ that for my sake she had rejected  
“ the preferred vows of the emperor  
“ of Persia, I burst into a mingled  
“ transport of love and gratitude, of  
“ joy and grief, then addressing my-  
“ self

" self to the supreme lord of the uni-  
 " verse, as the witness of our plighted  
 " engagements, " Merciful Allah,"  
 " cried I, " who amidst the wonder-  
 " ful and often unaccountable dispensa-  
 " tions of thy providence shewest a  
 " special regard to the happiness of  
 " the upright and the just, do thou  
 " grant that our mutual vows may be  
 " crowned with success, and that as our  
 " hearts are irrevocably joined our fates  
 " and fortunes may be inseparably  
 " united." " But I interrupt your  
 " relation," said I; " be so good as  
 " to inform me, how the Sophy bore  
 " the mortification of his slighted love?"  
 " He appeared," replied Obeyd,  
 " to feel some resentment from the  
 " wound which Selima had given  
 " to his pride, and expressed the ut-  
 " most uneasiness at finding that his  
 " passion



“ passion had met with no other return  
“ but that of indifference and aversion.  
“ He said, he was not ignorant, that  
“ her affections were pre-engaged, and  
“ that he knew upon whose account  
“ all his vows and promises were dis-  
“ regarded; but he bid her consider,  
“ that as he would never resign the  
“ possession of those charms, of which  
“ the emperor of Persia alone was wor-  
“ thy, to any potentate upon earth, much  
“ less to one of his own slaves, whether  
“ it were not better to listen to his  
“ suit, and by doing so, enjoy both  
“ empire and love, than to rouse the  
“ fury of his lust and revenge, which  
“ might prove equally fatal to herself  
“ and her lover.” On uttering these  
“ words, he went out of the room  
“ somewhat hastily and abruptly, leav-  
“ ing Selima overwhelmed with grief,  
“ which

“ which affected me so sensibly, that  
 “ I could not help mingling my sighs  
 “ and tears with hers.—But as mere  
 “ sympathy with the misfortunes of  
 “ others, though pleasing to the sufferers,  
 “ is of little consequence without some  
 “ exertion for their relief, I have ne-  
 “ ver ceased, since I first became ac-  
 “ quainted with her, to employ my  
 “ invention in devising the means of  
 “ her escape, and Providence seems  
 “ now, by your unexpected arrival  
 “ in this place, to favour us with an  
 “ opportunity of effectuating it. I have  
 “ already concerted a rude plan for  
 “ this purpose, which I will communi-  
 “ cate to you at our next interview.  
 “ My duty, at present, requires my  
 “ attendance in the haram: to-morrow  
 “ evening you may expect me to call  
 “ for you at your own lodgings. Then  
 “ bidding

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“ bidding me good night, he left me  
“ without allowing me time, either to  
“ express my gratitude for his generous  
“ offices, or to ask him to unfold the  
“ scheme he had concerted for accom-  
“ plishing the deliverance of Selima.

“ My mind was in too much agita-  
“ tion to admit of my enjoying any  
“ sleep that night. My imagination,  
“ naturally sanguine, flattered me with  
“ a prospect of yet recovering the  
“ sole object of my affections; and I  
“ spent the night in golden dreams of  
“ my future felicity and in anxious  
“ expectation of a visit from Obeyd,  
“ whom I considered as the person  
“ destined to fulfill all my wishes.

“ Obeyd, punctual to his time,  
“ called next evening at my lodgings;  
“ and



“ and finding me in a musing posture,  
 “ —Rouse yourself,” said he, “ Rhedi,  
 “ from those deliriums of love into  
 “ which you are lulled by your passion  
 “ for Selima. The present juncture  
 “ is the hour of danger, the crisis of  
 “ action and enterprize, and must not  
 “ be wasted in those pleasing but  
 “ delusive reveries, which absorb the  
 “ faculties in useless contemplation of  
 “ ideal felicity, while they should be  
 “ braced for a vigorous exertion and  
 “ employed in providing against those  
 “ disastrous contingencies, which may  
 “ blast the fairest blossoms in the gar-  
 “ den of hope.” —“ I felt the justness  
 “ of the rebuke, and awaking as it  
 “ were from the delicious dream which  
 “ I had been indulging, I started up  
 “ on my feet, and embracing Obeyd  
 “ with all the ardour of the most  
 “ affectionate

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" affectionate gratitude, " Your re-  
 " proaches, my friend," said I, " are  
 " just; but the enchantment that locked  
 " up my faculties, is broke at once  
 " by the force of your remonstrances;  
 " I this moment shake off the indolence  
 " with which you charge me, and  
 " stand prepared for engaging in any  
 " enterprize, however perilous, for ac-  
 " complishing the object of my wishes."  
 " Listen then," replied he, " to the  
 " scheme which for this purpose I am  
 " going to communicate to thee.

" I told Selima to-day, that as she  
 " appeared to have an unfurmountable  
 " aversion to the Sophy, and had no  
 " prospect of ever being united to  
 " Rhedi, I hoped she would forgive  
 " me, if I took the liberty to recom-  
 " mend a friend of mine to her as  
 " a lover,

“ a lover, who was irresistibly struck  
“ with her charms, and would hazard  
“ his life to effectuate her deliverance.  
“ I assured her, that he was one of the  
“ most agreeable and accomplished  
“ men I had ever seen; that I was per-  
“ suaded, she would be of the same opi-  
“ nion when she had become acquainted  
“ with him; and that therefore, if she  
“ would give me leave, I would find  
“ means to introduce him to her this  
“ evening. To this proposal she gave  
“ just such an answer as I expected  
“ from her. She told me that she was  
“ sorry to discover her mistake, that  
“ till then she had always considered  
“ me as her friend; that she was now  
“ however sufficiently convinced of  
“ the contrary, and desired I would  
“ talk to her no more upon such a  
“ subject, otherwise she would instant-



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“ ly acquaint the Sophy of my intended  
“ treachery, who would not fail to in-  
“ flict the punishment due to such infi-  
“ delity. She added, that as I knew  
“ her heart was irrevocably attached  
“ to you, it was intolerable presump-  
“ tion and insolence in me to propose  
“ to her another lover; then assuming  
“ a severe and menacing air, “ Be gone,”  
“ said she, “ this moment from my pre-  
“ sence, unworthy as thou art either  
“ of my confidence or esteem, and  
“ take care never to mention thy  
“ friend to me as a lover, if thou wishest  
“ to avoid the effects of my resentment  
“ and revenge.”

“ Though I appeared to be greatly  
“ abashed and disconcerted by the seve-  
“ rity of this rebuke, and immediately  
“ left her apartment, I determined to  
“ prosecute

“ prosecute my plan, and as you are  
 “ the person whom I intend to intro-  
 “ duce to her as a lover, I expect  
 “ that you will act your part properly :  
 “ since the unravelling of the plot will  
 “ produce the most agreeable decep-  
 “ tion to Selima, which she ever ex-  
 “ perienced, I hope I shall be forgiven  
 “ by you both for using a little inno-  
 “ cent artifice in the conduct of it.”

“ As I anticipated in my imagina-  
 “ tion the mutual raptures which  
 “ would be the consequence of the  
 “ elucidation of the plot, I entered  
 “ eagerly into it, and promised that I  
 “ would act my part to his satisfac-  
 “ tion, desiring he would acquaint me  
 “ in what manner he proposed I should  
 “ perform it. “ Within two hours,” said  
 “ he, “ when it is dark, I will send you  
 “ a suit

“ a suit of cloaths belonging to one  
 “ of the eunuchs, carefully packed up,  
 “ which you will put on, remembering  
 “ to bring your own, packed up in the  
 “ same manner, under your arm, and  
 “ come without fear to the gate of  
 “ the palace; your disguise will im-  
 “ pose upon the guards, and pro-  
 “ cure you admittance. As soon as I  
 “ perceive you approaching, I will  
 “ call upon you by the name of some  
 “ of the eunuchs, desiring you to  
 “ quicken your pace, as if your at-  
 “ tendance were immediately wanted,  
 “ and having followed me into a room  
 “ adjoining to the apartment of Se-  
 “ lima, I will furnish you with ano-  
 “ ther suit, in which you are to ap-  
 “ pear before the enchantress of your  
 “ soul. With regard to the other cir-  
 “ cumstances, you may leave them to  
 “ me



“ me to manage, as time and exigencies may require.”

“ Having given me these instructions, he left me immediately, and in about two hours after, according to his promise, he sent me the cloaths of an eunuch wrapped up as he had told me, and arraying myself in my new habit at the same time that I folded up my own, as I had been directed, I set out without loss of time for the palace, where I readily obtained admittance, and being recognized at a distance by Obeyd, who was watching my approach, he called out to me to make haste, as I was just now wanted by one of the ladies of the haram. I obeyed the call without delay, and following

F

“ Obeyd

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"Obeyd with a mixed emotion of  
 "hope, fear, and joy, I at last ar-  
 "rived at an apartment adjoining to  
 "the one that I was told was possessed  
 "by Selima. On entering this apart-  
 "ment, Obeyd pointed out to me a  
 "suit of cloaths, which, from the fine-  
 "ness of the vesture and richness of  
 "the embroidery, I perceived to be-  
 "long to the Sophy." "Exchange once  
 "more the garb which you now wear,  
 "for that which I present you with,"  
 "said he; "you shall have the honour  
 "to appear in the habit of the Sophy,  
 "and you shall, in a little, enjoy a  
 "happiness which the Sophy himself,  
 "with all his power and grandeur,  
 "could never attain. You will like-  
 "wise derive another advantage from  
 "this garb, and that is, that it will

“ screen you from any unreasonable  
 “ intrusion during your conference with  
 “ Selima.”

“ Being arrayed in this magnificent  
 “ habit, I followed Obeyd into the  
 “ apartment of Selima. As I advanced,  
 “ the palpitation of my heart redoubled;  
 “ an universal tremor seized my nerves,  
 “ and I was scarce able, with all the  
 “ fortitude and presence of mind I  
 “ could muster up, to sustain the cha-  
 “ racter I had assumed with any de-  
 “ gree of dignity. Obeyd having  
 “ opened the door of the room, I en-  
 “ tered, and casting my eyes around  
 “ in search of the beloved idol of my  
 “ soul, I observed her reposing herself  
 “ on a sofa, wrapped in pensive me-  
 “ lancholy, and exhibiting in her coun-



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“ tenance an air of deep dejection and  
 “ grief that penetrated my heart. As  
 “ I approached to the sofa on which  
 “ Selima reclined, she rose up hastily,  
 “ believing me to be the Sophy, and  
 “ prostrated herself before me. At  
 “ that instant Obeyd re-entered the  
 “ room, and coming up to Selima,”  
 “ As I knew the addresses of the em-  
 “ peror, madam, to be so disagree-  
 “ able to you, I asked your permission  
 “ to introduce another lover to you ;  
 “ who, I was persuaded, would be  
 “ more successful in his endeavours to  
 “ gain your affections ; but you per-  
 “ sisted in refusing to listen to my re-  
 “ quest. I have ventured, however,  
 “ to disobey your orders, but hope  
 “ you will forgive my transgression, as  
 “ I am willing to pawn my life that  
 “ the

“ the person whom I have the honour  
“ to introduce to you, will have the  
“ good fortune to win those affections  
“ which the Sophy solicited in vain ;  
“ and though he at present appears in  
“ a garb that is calculated rather to  
“ inspire fear than confidence, and  
“ rather aversion than love, I have not  
“ the least doubt that when the dis-  
“ guise, which he now wears, is re-  
“ moved, you will no more regret the  
“ loss of your Rhedi.” “Obeyd then  
“ plucking off the mask which he had  
“ caused me to throw over my face, in  
“ order to prevent my being known  
“ on my entrance into the room,”  
“ Tell me now, Selima,” said he, “ whe-  
“ ther or not I have forfeited my life,  
“ which I ventured to pledge on your  
“ acquiescence in my choice of a lover

" for you." " Blessed Allah ! " cried she,  
 " it is Rhedi, it is Rhedi himself "—She  
 " could utter no more—Overpowered  
 " with the violent emotions which  
 " agitated her mind, she fainted away  
 " in my arms, till the tender Obeyd,  
 " suspecting the effect of our interview,  
 " applied to her mouth and nostrils an  
 " essence of a strong and aromatic  
 " smell, restored her to her senses in a  
 " moment. When she had recovered,  
 " we embraced each other with a rap-  
 " ture which it is impossible to express,  
 " and continued for some time locked  
 " in each others arms, while at one  
 " time she cast upon me a look of the  
 " most bewitching tenderness and love,  
 " and at another, upon Obeyd a look  
 " of mingled complacence and grati-  
 " tude, that indicated the feelings of  
 " her



“ her heart; then, addressing herself  
“ to our common friend and benefac-  
“ tor, “ Kind and generous Obeyd,”  
“ said she, “ is this the lover you have  
“ provided for me as a rival to the  
“ Sophy of Persia. You have given  
“ me a lover,” added she, “ my worthy  
“ friend, whom I prefer to all the  
“ kings and emperors upon earth. But  
“ tell me, my dear Rhedi, how have  
“ you made your escape from the hor-  
“ rible dungeon where I was told you  
“ was confined? and how have you  
“ obtained access to this place, which  
“ you cannot but know must be at-  
“ tended with dreadful and immi-  
“ nent danger, that makes me shud-  
“ der to think of?”

“ My escape from the dungeon you  
“ speak of,” replied I, “ my dear Se-  
“ lima, I was enabled, through the  
“ assistance of Providence, to accom-  
“ plish, in a manner which I shall after-  
“ wards relate to you; access to this  
“ place was procured me by the address  
“ and exertion of our mutual friend  
“ and benefactor who is now before  
“ you, a favour that he has purchased  
“ for us at the expence of his own  
“ life.” “ Worthy Obeyd,” said Se-  
“ lima, “ how shall we be able to  
“ thank you in a manner suitable to the  
“ favours you have conferred upon us,  
“ and to the risk at which they have  
“ been purchased ! O continue to  
“ heighten our obligations and our  
“ gratitude, by exerting your endea-  
“ vours in favouring our escape from  
“ this detestable place, and then we will  
“ owe

"owe you not only the enjoyment of  
 "life but love; and you will enjoy the  
 "happiness of uniting two of the most  
 "constant hearts which were ever  
 "formed for each other." "I would not  
 "have engaged in so perilous an under-  
 "taking," rejoined Obeid, "if I had  
 "not resolved to endeavour to accom-  
 "plish it, at whatever risk, and if I am  
 "so happy as to succeed in it, the re-  
 "flection of having contributed to re-  
 "unite two such faithful lovers, will  
 "amply compensate both the labour  
 "and danger attending on the execu-  
 "tion of the design. I must further  
 "acquaint you, that I intend to share  
 "your fortunes, and to make my  
 "escape along with you from a court  
 "where the pre-eminence I have at-  
 "tained has become distasteful, and  
 "where the office and employment in



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“ which I am engaged, though of con-  
“ siderable dignity, is often very con-  
“ trary to my natural disposition, and  
“ I propose in some sequestered retreat  
“ to lead a retired life with you, hop-  
“ ing in the evening of my days to  
“ reap more solid tranquillity and hap-  
“ piness from the pursuit of virtue in  
“ the shade of privacy, than I have  
“ ever found in the glare and bustle of  
“ public life.”

“ This intimation of Obeyd's inten-  
“ tion of accompanying us in our  
“ flight gave both Selima and me the  
“ greatest pleasure, and we could not  
“ help congratulating ourselves on the  
“ felicity of carrying along with us a  
“ man whose society would be as agree-  
“ able as his advice would be benefi-  
“ cial to us. He then told us, that  
“ he

"he would acquaint us of the particu-  
 "lars of his plan of life, after we had  
 "made our escape, and got out of dan-  
 "ger; that at present, environed as  
 "we were with perils on all hands,  
 "there was no time to be lost, and  
 "that therefore we should endeavour  
 "instantly, with all imaginable secrecy  
 "and expedition, to make our escape;  
 "for the accomplishing of which, he  
 "informed us, that he had brought  
 "small ropes along with him, which  
 "he proposed to fasten to the inside of  
 "the window by means of an iron hook  
 "that he had fixed to them, and desired  
 "that Selima and I would walk into  
 "an adjoining closet, from the window  
 "of which he was of opinion it would  
 "be most proper to descend. He ad-  
 "vised that I should in the first place  
 "make the experiment, that Selima

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" should follow me, as I could receive  
 " her in my arms at the foot of the pa-  
 " lace wall, and he himself resolved to  
 " be last in making this hazardous de-  
 " scent. The rope was just fastened in  
 " the manner directed by Obeyd, the  
 " window was lifted up, and I was  
 " preparing to slide down into the gar-  
 " den, when an alarm was given from  
 " one of the adjoining apartments,  
 " and we distinctly heard the Sophy  
 " calling aloud, in an angry and ter-  
 " rible tone, to some of the eunuchs  
 " in waiting, " Haste, slaves, and sum-  
 " mon the guard this moment to attend  
 " your master into the apartments of  
 " Selima."

" Had the terrible Zachis † burst that  
 " moment through the walls of the

† The genius employed in inflicting punish-  
 ment on the guilty.

" haram,



"haram, armed like a messenger of  
 "wrath, and ready with his uplifted  
 "arm to execute the purposes of di-  
 "vine vengeance, his appearance  
 "could not have struck our hearts with  
 "greater consternation and dread than  
 "the voice of the Sophy founding in  
 "our affrighted ears. Both Selima  
 "and I, overwhelmed with horror,  
 "and petrified by the dreadful accents  
 "which we had heard, were for some  
 "time incapable either of devising or  
 "executing a plan for our escape.  
 "Happily for us, Obeyd possessed a  
 "degree of coolness and presence of  
 "mind that in such a situation was  
 "perfectly astonishing. Catching me  
 "up instantly into his arms, he pushed  
 "me out at the window, desiring me  
 "to hold fast the rope till I reached the  
 "garden, when he would let it drop  
 "down

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“ down to me, and advising me to  
 “ make use of it in scaling the walls of  
 “ the garden, as a search would pro-  
 “ bably be made for me; and he as-  
 “ sured me, that he would endeavour  
 “ to contrive the means of Selima’s  
 “ escape, who along with himself he  
 “ hoped would soon follow me, and  
 “ meet me at the north-side of the gar-  
 “ den, either this night, or to-morrow  
 “ about this time.—There was no time  
 “ for deliberation, and I was in too  
 “ much perplexity and terror to be  
 “ able to deliberate; I gave myself up  
 “ therefore implicitly to the direction of  
 “ Obeyd, and catching hold of the rope,  
 “ I slid down into the garden in an in-  
 “ stant. As soon as I had reached the  
 “ ground, Obeyd immediately loosed  
 “ the rope, and let it drop at the foot  
 “ of the wall. Having wound it up  
 “ hastily,

"hastily, I stole unperceived by any  
 "one to the north wall of the garden,  
 "and fixing the hook which was upon  
 "the end of the rope upon the top  
 "of the wall, I climbed up with some  
 "difficulty; then changing the direc-  
 "tion of the hook, by fastening it on  
 "the inside, I slid down softly to the  
 "ground.

"I was now out of the reach of  
 "danger, but alas! what pleasure  
 "could I derive from the contem-  
 "plation of my own safety, while  
 "the treasure of my soul was shut  
 "up in the haram of the Sophy  
 "of Persia, and an insuperable bar  
 "seemed to be placed betwixt us,  
 "which precluded all hopes of access  
 "to her? My imagination exhibited  
 "the most dreadful and shocking  
 "scenes



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“ scenes to my view. I fancied the  
 “ furious Sophy entering the apart-  
 “ ments of Selima with an armed guard :  
 “ I represented the dear creature pro-  
 “ strate at his feet, the angry monarch  
 “ leaning over her with a dagger point-  
 “ ed at her breast, demanding the dis-  
 “ covery of her lover, and threatening  
 “ her with instant death, if she refused  
 “ to inform him. While these horrible  
 “ images occurred to my mind, I ac-  
 “ cused myself of pusillanimity, in pro-  
 “ viding for my own safety at the  
 “ very time that Selima was exposed to  
 “ the Sophy’s rage. “ How,” said I  
 “ to myself, “ could I be so dastardly,  
 “ as meanly to consult my own safety,  
 “ while my beloved Selima was in cir-  
 “ cumstances of the most imminent  
 “ danger ? Why did not I stay to pro-  
 “ tect her from the arm of violence,  
 “ or

" or die in her defence ?"—I was con-  
 " vinced however, upon the slightest  
 " reflection, that my staying in  
 " the palace a few moments longer  
 " must have been attended with the  
 " most fatal consequences both to  
 " Selima, Obeyd, and myself, and  
 " that the wisest course I could possibly  
 " take, in order to provide for our  
 " common safety, was to comply with  
 " the instructions of Obeyd, by making  
 " my escape with the utmost expedi-  
 " tion. Every thought, however, of  
 " the dangerous situation of Selima  
 " planted a dagger in my heart, which  
 " was torn by the cruel conflict of con-  
 " tending passions, of love and jea-  
 " lousy, anxiety and suspense, of ha-  
 " tred and revenge, which alternately  
 " reigned in my soul in their utmost  
 " fury. In this tumult of the passions,  
 " my

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" my only recourse was in the care of  
 " Providence, and in the caution and  
 " address of the prudent Obeyd.  
 " Blessed Allah !" cried I, " whose  
 " providential interposition I have so  
 " signally experienced, both in sug-  
 " gesting the means of my deliverance  
 " from the dungeon in which I was  
 " confined, and in effectuating my  
 " late escape from the dangers to which  
 " I was exposed in the palace, do thou  
 " exert thy omnipotent arm in the  
 " defence of my beloved Selima,  
 " restore her inviolate, together with  
 " Obeyd our common friend, to the  
 " disconsolate Rhedi."

" While I was thus giving vent to the  
 " emotions of my heart, and putting  
 " up my fervent prayers to heaven for  
 " the protection of Selima and Obeyd  
 " in



“ in a retired corner without the garden  
“ walls, where I was concealed from  
“ the view of any one that might pass  
“ that way, I heard the bolt of the gar-  
“ den door which was next me turned.  
“ I saw the door open; I observed two  
“ persons, whose appearance I could  
“ not yet distinguish, coming out, and  
“ shutting the door after them, and  
“ heard them softly whispering to each  
“ other. Hope and fear took alternate  
“ possession of my heart, which at one  
“ time bounded with joy at the pro-  
“ spect of discovering the unknown  
“ persons to be Selima and Obeyd, at  
“ another recoiled with dread at the  
“ thoughts of a mistake. I had re-  
“ flexion enough however to lie still in  
“ the place where I was hid, in expecta-  
“ tion of their coming nearer me, when  
“ I could more distinctly recognize  
“ them.

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“ them. What I wished for happened  
“ immediately. Passing within a few  
“ yards of me, I discovered, to my  
“ inexpressible mortification, that the  
“ persons whom I had seen coming out  
“ of the garden were one of the ladies  
“ of the haram and her lover, who  
“ had made their escape together, and,  
“ as I learned from their conversation,  
“ had appointed a servant with two  
“ horses to meet them in a spot near to  
“ that where I had been concealed.  
“ Deeply affected with this cruel dis-  
“ appointment, I resolved to lie quiet  
“ in the place where I was till I could  
“ remove from it with more safety. In  
“ a few minutes after the lady and her  
“ lover had passed by me, I heard the  
“ bolt of the garden door which was  
“ next me again turned, and I saw two  
“ persons,

“ persons, whose appearance I could  
“ not yet distinguish, come out; who,  
“ walking along the out-side wall of  
“ the garden, approached towards the  
“ place of my retirement. Having  
“ advanced a few paces farther, they  
“ stopped and looked around them  
“ as if they waited for somebody. My  
“ heart again throbbed with expecta-  
“ tion, and I was again on the rack of  
“ suspense, but had reflexion enough  
“ to lie close in hopes of making a  
“ discovery of the persons who were so  
“ near me, by their discourse. My  
“ suspense was removed in an instant,  
“ by hearing one of them say to  
“ the other, “ It is in vain for us to  
“ expect to apprehend Selima’s lover,  
“ he has escaped under favour of the  
“ night, and will defy our search:”

“ We



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“ We must obey the orders we have  
“ received however,” replied the other,  
“ and continue our search in the track  
“ pointed out to us.” They then  
“ walked forward, passing within a  
“ few yards of me, while I lay still,  
“ congratulating myself upon the escape  
“ I had made, though I had still apprehensions  
“ of their returning the same  
“ way, and, by stepping a little off  
“ the road, of their stumbling over  
“ me in the place where I lay, in  
“ which case I was determined to make  
“ the best defence I was able, with a  
“ dagger which I had under my cloaths,  
“ and which was the only weapon I  
“ had. While I was revolving the  
“ danger of my situation, I heard the  
“ clashing of swords at a little distance,  
“ and it immediately occurred to my  
“ mind,

“ mind, that the two persons sent in  
“ search of me, had come up with the  
“ lady and her lover, who had lately  
“ passed this way. Instigated by the  
“ desire, which in a greater or less de-  
“ gree is felt by every one possessed of  
“ the slightest spark of generosity of  
“ sentiment, of interposing in defence  
“ of the weaker party, against the af-  
“ faults of those who intend their de-  
“ struction, and touched with the  
“ strongest sensations of sympathy on  
“ account of the danger of the unhap-  
“ py pair, sensations which were pro-  
“ bably heightened by the resemblance  
“ of their situation to my own, I started  
“ up in an instant, and determined to  
“ exert the utmost of my interest and  
“ skill in their favour; I rushed towards  
“ the place where I heard the clashing  
“ of

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“ of the swords; but was at once stop-  
 “ ped in my career by a loud call from  
 “ several persons behind me to take  
 “ the young man, if possible, alive;  
 “ and by a shout of exultation which I  
 “ heard, I concluded he was taken.  
 “ Struck as I was with consternation  
 “ and pity, I had just reflection enough  
 “ to consult my own safety, in a case  
 “ where I was conscious my interposi-  
 “ tion could be of no avail, as by this  
 “ time I could perceive an armed  
 “ guard coming up as fast as they  
 “ were able. Turning hastily aside  
 “ therefore, I clapped close to the  
 “ ground among the bushes, where I  
 “ had before lain concealed, and wait-  
 “ ed the issue of this dangerous ad-  
 “ venture with a throbbing heart. I  
 “ had scarce taken the necessary pre-  
 “ cautions



“ cautions for securing myself from  
“ the view of the party which I had  
“ seen coming up, when I observed  
“ them to the number of eight persons,  
“ all armed, run quickly by me with-  
“ out seeming to have the least suspi-  
“ cions of my being there, and meet-  
“ ing their companions by the way  
“ with the unfortunate young man and  
“ woman whom they had seized, they  
“ all returned together to the palace.  
“ After the guard were removed a  
“ considerable distance from me, I begun  
“ to ruminate on the incident of which I  
“ had been a witness, and though I  
“ could not help feeling the strongest  
“ commiseration for the lover and his  
“ mistress, upon account of the de-  
“ plorable fate to which they would  
“ be subjected, yet I began to perceive  
“ with an emotion of joy blended with

G

“ pity

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“ pity for the unhappy sufferers, that  
 “ the apprehension of these, by con-  
 “ vincing the Sophy of Selima’s in-  
 “ nocence, and consequently of slacken-  
 “ ing his vigilance, might be a means of  
 “ facilitating the escape both of her  
 “ and Obeyd. I continued therefore  
 “ to lie close in my place, eagerly  
 “ watching for their appearance, though  
 “ without much hope of being blessed  
 “ with a sight of them at that time,  
 “ till the approach of dawn obliged me  
 “ to leave my station, and after saunter-  
 “ ing sometime through the streets of  
 “ Isfahan where I was in least hazard  
 “ of being known, I went into one  
 “ of the caravanseras of the city,  
 “ where I spent the day in much in-  
 “ quietude and anxiety about the fate  
 “ of Selima and Obeyd; and at night  
 “ returning to the north side of the  
 “ garden

“ garden adjoining to the haram, I  
 “ took my post of observation in the  
 “ place where I had been the night  
 “ before. After waiting about two  
 “ hours I heard the garden door once  
 “ more turning upon its hinges, and  
 “ looking earnestly towards it I saw  
 “ a person peeping out and returning  
 “ again, as if afraid to venture farther.  
 “ A little after I observed two persons  
 “ come out at the door, and walk  
 “ close by the outside wall of the garden,  
 “ while they sometimes stood looking  
 “ around them as if they apprehended  
 “ themselves in danger of being dis-  
 “ covered, at other times softly whisper-  
 “ ing to each other, though they were not  
 “ as yet near enough to be heard. The  
 “ same passions, which the night before  
 “ had agitated my heart with such  
 “ violence, again resumed their empire,



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“ and kept me once more on the rack of  
 “ suspense. To this torturing suspense  
 “ however succeeded in a little the most  
 “ transporting joy, on hearing the  
 “ lady as she passed near me saying,  
 “ in a low tone of voice, “Alas, my  
 “ Rhedi is gone, and he will not know  
 “ where to find us.” She had scarce  
 “ uttered these words, when springing  
 “ up in an instant from the place  
 “ where I had hid myself, I went up  
 “ hastily, but softly, to her, and seizing  
 “ her hand, “Thy Rhedi,” said I whisper-  
 “ ing to her, “is still here, and has been  
 “ anxiously waiting for his lovely Se-  
 “ limas, praise be to Allah who has once  
 “ more united them and given them  
 “ so faithful a friend (squeezing the hand  
 “ of Obeyd) for a companion in their  
 “ flight.”—“ Selima, transported at the  
 “ sudden and in some measure unex-  
 “ pected

“pected interview, could scarce restrain  
 “the joy she felt within any moderate  
 “bounds; but Obeyd cautioning us  
 “to beware of giving vent so unseason-  
 “ably to the emotions of our hearts,  
 “we recollected ourselves immediately  
 “and restrained their indulgence.

“I then told Obeyd, as we walked  
 “along, the various scenes I had been  
 “a witness of. I acquainted him of  
 “my discovery of one of the ladies of  
 “the haram and her paramour, of  
 “the manner in which they were ap-  
 “prehended by the guard, and of the  
 “narrow escape I myself had made by  
 “lying concealed among bushes just by  
 “the side of the road, along which  
 “they went. “Both your escape  
 “and ours,” replied Obeyd, “has been  
 “wonderful; in the mean time let us

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“ proceed to the place of our destina-  
“ tion as expeditiously as possible, and  
“ we will then moralize upon the cir-  
“ cumstances of our escape with grati-  
“ tude to Allah, who has hitherto  
“ conducted us through surrounding  
“ perils.” Then fetching a circuit  
“ along the bank of the Zenderoudk,  
“ we arrived at a house in the extre-  
“ mity of the city, which Obeyd told  
“ us was inhabited by one of the  
“ name of Raschid, in whom he could  
“ thoroughly confide, and where he  
“ said he had ordered camels to be in  
“ readiness for us at a minute’s warn-  
“ ing. When we had got into the  
“ house, Obeyd communicated to us  
“ the particulars of the plan he had  
“ concerted for securing our escape,  
“ and for preventing our being disco-  
“ vered in the course of our intended  
“ journey.



" journey. He told us that Mount  
 " Ararat on the confines of Persia and  
 " Armenia was the destined period of  
 " our travels ; that there lived a vene-  
 " rable hermit in that mountain, the  
 " intimate friend of his father Amroud,  
 " and to whose excellent instructions  
 " he himself was indebted for the first  
 " rudiments of virtue, with whom  
 " they could lead a tranquil and re-  
 " tired life, and that the safest way of  
 " proceeding upon their journey to-  
 " wards the place of their destination  
 " was for all of them to assume the  
 " character and habit of Armenian mer-  
 " chants travelling with the commodi-  
 " ties of Persia to their own country.  
 " He added, that he had provided the  
 " dress requisite to each of us, together  
 " with several bales of silk, which were  
 " to load our camels, and that it was  
 " necessary

“ necessary we should array ourselves in  
 “ the new habits he had provided for  
 “ us, and set out immediately. When  
 “ Selima heard of the disguise which  
 “ Obeyd desired her to assume, she  
 “ discovered a strong reluctance to the  
 “ proposal from the natural modesty  
 “ and feminine delicacy of her mind;  
 “ but on my expostulating with her a  
 “ little, and shewing the absolute ne-  
 “ cessity of complying with it for our  
 “ common safety, she agreed to yield  
 “ to our mutual desires. While Obeyd  
 “ and I were equipping ourselves  
 “ in the habit of Armenian merchants,  
 “ Selima having retired to another  
 “ room for the same purposes, anxi-  
 “ ous to know the manner in which  
 “ she and Obeyd escaped from the  
 “ palace environed with such dread-  
 “ ful danger as I left them in, I in-  
 “ treated

“treated the latter to gratify my  
“curiosity by giving me a relation of  
“it.

“Our escape,” replied Obeyd, “was  
“effectuated by a concurrence of cir-  
“cumstances which shewed a particu-  
“lar interposition of Allah in our  
“favour.

“After the alarm that was given  
“by Almalek, which threw us all into  
“such consternation, the first thing I  
“thought of was the removing you  
“out of the way, being sensible that  
“your being discovered in the haram  
“would have terminated in the de-  
“struction of us all. Having happily  
“accomplished this object by letting  
“you down with a rope into the gar-  
“den, I slipped into my own apartments.



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“ which were not far from those of  
 “ Selima, by a private door, as fast as  
 “ possible, and rushing out again, as  
 “ if alarmed by the noise, and in obe-  
 “ dience to the hasty call of the Sophy,  
 “ I was met on the top of the stair by  
 “ the Sophy himself, who called to  
 “ his guards, several of whom were,  
 “ by that time, around him, to secure  
 “ the traitor, pointing to me; and  
 “ then, selecting four of the stoutest  
 “ and most faithful of his followers,  
 “ he desired them instantly to attend  
 “ him into the apartments of Selima,  
 “ carrying me along with them, who  
 “ was now alarmed with the apprehen-  
 “ sions both of Selima’s danger, and  
 “ my own: I began to dread that you  
 “ had been discovered in the disguise  
 “ of an eunuch, by some person who  
 “ had given information of your being  
 “ admitted

" admitted in that disguise into the  
 " haram, and though I was in hopes  
 " of your effectuating your entire  
 " escape, yet I was afraid that the  
 " information which Almalek had re-  
 " ceived, would impress him with such  
 " a conviction of Selima's guilt and  
 " mine, as to determine him to order  
 " us both to be put to instant death.  
 " Dangerous as my own situation  
 " was, I trembled for the fate of the  
 " unhappy Selima.

" The enraged Sophy, marching  
 " forwards to her apartments with a  
 " drawn sabre in his hand, burst at  
 " once into the room where she was,  
 " and was immediately followed by  
 " his guards, conducting me as their  
 " prisoner. When they entered the  
 " room Selima was lying on a

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“sopha, overwhelmed with grief and  
 “despair, casting her eyes, which ex-  
 “pressed a kind of wild horror, on  
 “Almalek, who was approaching to  
 “her with the sword in his hand: she  
 “threw herself forward on the floor  
 “as she attempted to rise, and fainted  
 “away at the sight. The Sophy,  
 “holding the sword still suspended over  
 “her head while she lay prostrate at  
 “his feet, “Think not,” said he, “base  
 “wretch (with a stern countenance,  
 “his eyes sparkling with fury) by a  
 “real or pretended swoon to escape  
 “the punishment due to a miscreant who  
 “has polluted the haram of the Sophy  
 “of Persia by her scandalous amours:”  
 “Then turning to the guards, “Be  
 “quick slaves,” said he, “and search  
 “every corner in these apartments  
 “for the villain who has dared sacri-  
 “legiously



"legionally to enter these forbidden  
 "walls, that I may blast him at once  
 "with the lightning of my indignation."  
 "After searching every where in vain,  
 "one of the eunuchs, whose name  
 "was Mahmud, whom I had punished  
 "some time before for his connivance  
 "at the amours of one of the ladies  
 "of the haram, and who since that  
 "time had, it seems, watched for an  
 "opportunity of taking revenge,  
 "coming into the room hastily at  
 "that instant, and prostrating himself  
 "before the Sophy, "Let the sove-  
 "reign of the kings of the earth," said  
 "he, "whose discerning eye explores  
 "with infallible perspicacity the plots  
 "of his enemies, and whose foot  
 "tramples on the neck of arrogance,  
 "condescend to listen to the informa-  
 "tion of his slave. The person who,  
 "according

“ according to the intelligence I gave  
 “ thee, had audaciously entered the  
 “ apartments of the haram, is not to  
 “ be found at present within these  
 “ walls, but has made his escape, as  
 “ I am assured, from one of the  
 “ windows by a rope into the gar-  
 “ den.”

“ Almalek having got this intima-  
 “ tion of your escape, ordered the cap-  
 “ tain of the guard, who was named  
 “ Afhraf, to send out different parties  
 “ that moment to search the garden  
 “ and to scour the roads and fields in  
 “ the neighbourhood, and to bring  
 “ you to him if possible alive. Then  
 “ turning to me, “ As for thee, thou  
 “ treacherous and abhorred slave,” said  
 “ he, “ be assured that the severest tor-  
 “ tures shall be inflicted upon thee.  
 “ and

“ and upon that abandoned woman,  
 “ whose intrigues thou hast attempted  
 “ to palliate. Thy tortures are only  
 “ respited till to-morrow on purpose to  
 “ heighten them by anticipation, and  
 “ to give time for apprehending the  
 “ accomplice of thy crimes, that I may  
 “ let fly the bolts of my indignation  
 “ against you all at once.” A denial of  
 “ the crimes with which I had been  
 “ impeached, would at any rate, in the  
 “ circumstances I was placed in, have  
 “ been an unprofitable falsehood. With-  
 “ out attempting therefore any vindi-  
 “ cation of my conduct, I prostrated  
 “ myself before the Sophy in token of  
 “ my submission to his sentence, but  
 “ Almalek spurning me from him,  
 “ ordered two of the guards to keep  
 “ me secure in my own chambers; and  
 “ having given the charge of Selima  
 “ to



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“ to some of the eunuchs who were  
“ present, he left the room in a  
“ rage.

“ All this time Selima continued in  
“ a swoon, and as there was now no  
“ prospect either before her eyes or  
“ mine, but death in its most hideous  
“ form, I earnestly prayed, that she  
“ might pass off in one of these faint-  
“ ing fits, and by that means disappoint  
“ the cruel purposes of the tyrant.

“ What happened to her after I  
“ was carried away, I cannot indeed  
“ distinctly inform you of. She her-  
“ self has since told me, that she  
“ relapsed from one swoon into an-  
“ other, that when she recovered she  
“ was for some time delirious, and that  
“ she could only remember that she

“ now

“ now and then uttered your name,  
 “ and implored your aid and mine.

“ Though I had no hopes of our  
 “ deliverance, I was afraid that Selima  
 “ in the phrenzy of her grief and despair  
 “ might drop some expression, that  
 “ would preclude even the possibility  
 “ of it. When I was shut up all alone  
 “ in my own chamber, under custody  
 “ of the guard that was set over me,  
 “ and began to ruminate on the dread-  
 “ ful circumstances of our fate, my  
 “ imagination anticipated all its horrors,  
 “ and I recoiled at the view of them  
 “ as one recoils from the brink of  
 “ some tremendous precipice.

“ Had it been my destiny to suffer  
 “ alone, I could have sustained the  
 “ tortures intended for me with some  
 “ degree

“ degree of fortitude ; but when I  
“ considered that by my indiscreet  
“ counsel, however well meant, I had  
“ involved Selima and you in all the  
“ horrors of my fate, my soul was  
“ overwhelmed with a weight of misery  
“ which I was utterly unable to bear.  
“ While I was reflecting on the cala-  
“ mities I was like to be the instru-  
“ ment of entailing on Selima and  
“ you, with an anguish that tortured  
“ and wrung my heart, I heard a shout  
“ in the garden, and in a moment after  
“ it was proclaimed through the haram,  
“ that the lover of Selima was taken.  
“ These dreadful tidings consummated  
“ my misery ; the most alarming fears  
“ were according to my apprehension  
“ now changed into the most frightful  
“ realities ; and I experienced at this  
“ moment the severest pangs which  
“ can



" can agitate and tear the human heart.  
 " Blessed Allah! what a tide of joy  
 " was diffused over my soul, on hear-  
 " ing it declared the very next mo-  
 " ment, that the person who was appre-  
 " hended was not the lover of Selima,  
 " but another, who was caught with-  
 " out the walls of the garden with one  
 " of the ladies of the haram.

" My mind underwent at once a  
 " sudden transition from the most ex-  
 " cruciating grief to the most rapturous  
 " joy, and I foresaw with an inexpress-  
 " sible pleasure, that the suspicions  
 " which the Sophy had entertained of  
 " Selima's infidelity and of my trea-  
 " chery would now, probably, by this  
 " providential discovery be wholly re-  
 " moved; that the machinations of  
 " Mahmud to my prejudice would be  
 " diffi-

“dissipated, and the vengeance he  
 “had meditated against me would re-  
 “coil with aggravated weight on his  
 “own head. I offered up my grateful  
 “acknowledgments to Allah for this  
 “favourable turn in the crisis of our  
 “fate, and fervently implored his aid  
 “in conducting it to a happy issue.

“While I was indulging the most  
 “transporting hopes of a fortunate  
 “catastrophe to an event so interesting  
 “to me, I once more heard the Sophy,  
 “but in a less terrible tone than  
 “formerly, calling upon the guard  
 “who had me in custody to release  
 “me, and desiring me to attend him  
 “into the apartments of Selima, to  
 “which he himself led the way. Pre-  
 “saging agreeable tidings, both from  
 “the tone of his voice, and from his  
 “order

“ order to release me, I eagerly sprung  
 “ forward, and followed the Sophy to  
 “ the place to which I was directed.

“ In the mean time Selima, having  
 “ the one moment heard the melan-  
 “ choly news re-echoing through the  
 “ palace that her lover was seized, the  
 “ next that it was not her lover, but  
 “ another young man who was found  
 “ with one of the ladies of the haram  
 “ without the garden walls, experienced  
 “ from these different relations the  
 “ extremes of the most agonizing grief  
 “ and the most transporting joy. For  
 “ some time indeed the excess of both,  
 “ by throwing her into one swoon after  
 “ another, had almost deprived her of  
 “ all sensation of either ; but after re-  
 “ covering from these, her feelings  
 “ became exquisite ; though happily  
 “ both



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“ both for her and me, her attendants  
 “ had mistaken the violent grief she at  
 “ one time expressed upon your ac-  
 “ count for the natural language of  
 “ her own sufferings, aggravated by  
 “ the thoughts of parting with you,  
 “ and the raptures of joy she discovered  
 “ at another for the exultation she  
 “ might be supposed to feel, at the pro-  
 “ spect of deliverance from the cala-  
 “ mities to which she was exposed.  
 “ Intimation however being sent her  
 “ of the Sophy’s intended visit, she  
 “ was composed into a decent tranquil-  
 “ lity before his arrival.—Upon his  
 “ entrance into the room, Selima was  
 “ going to prostrate herself; but Al-  
 “ malek going up to her immediately,  
 “ prevented her, and taking her by  
 “ the hand, “Forgive,” said he, “ lovely  
 “ Selima, the injury I have done thee,  
 “ in

“ in supposing thee guilty of a crime  
 “ of which I now believe thee to be  
 “ incapable. The trespass which I  
 “ unjustly attributed to thee, I am now  
 “ satisfied has been committed by one  
 “ of the ladies of the haram, whom,  
 “ together with the vile slave her detested  
 “ paramour, I am determined to punish  
 “ in the most exemplary manner. The  
 “ only reparation I can make for the  
 “ injurious suspicions I lately enter-  
 “ tained of thee, is to doom to death  
 “ the wretch who dared to asperse thine  
 “ unspotted character, which I have  
 “ already done.” Then addressing  
 “ himself to me, “ Faithful Obeyd,”  
 “ said he, “ whose integrity I have  
 “ often proved, let thy conduct be  
 “ always as free from the stains of in-  
 “ fidelity and treachery as it has been  
 “ manifested to be upon this occasion,  
 “ and

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"and thou shalt have no reason to  
 "complain of the influence of thine  
 "enemies to thy prejudice. I now  
 "reinstate thee in thy authority and  
 "offices; to thy charge I commit the  
 "treasure of my soul; and remember  
 "that I depend upon thine assiduous  
 "endeavours to sooth my enchanting  
 "fair-one into a compliance with my  
 "wishes." Turning again to Selima,  
 "whose hand he softly squeezed and  
 "kissed, with an air of tenderness;  
 "Farewel," said he, "for the present,  
 "my dear Selima, I leave thee under  
 "the care of Obeyd; whom I know  
 "to be the most acceptable attendant  
 "I could offer, and whom I hope to  
 "find a successful advocate in favour  
 "of Almalek." Selima having thanked  
 "the Sophy in the most respectful  
 "manner for his courtesy in leaving

hns "

" me



“ me for her attendant, and I having  
 “ taken that opportunity of prostrating  
 “ myself before him, and of making  
 “ my humble acknowledgments for his  
 “ goodness towards me, he took his  
 “ leave of Selima, and left us to-  
 “ gether.

“ You will easily conceive the trans-  
 “ ports of joy we both felt, on finding  
 “ ourselves left alone at entire liberty,  
 “ without a spy upon our actions, or  
 “ the least suspicion of our designs;  
 “ and you will readily imagine that we  
 “ did not lose much time in concerting  
 “ the plan of our escape. As it is  
 “ always disagreeable to a generous  
 “ mind to disappoint the expectations  
 “ of those who trust to our fidelity, I  
 “ will acknowledge, that the reflection  
 “ on the breach of confidence we were  
 H “ going

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“going to commit by our elopement  
 “gave me some degree of uneasiness,  
 “and had the Sophy had any natural  
 “right to confine us in his haram,  
 “against our inclinations, and subject  
 “us to his will, it would have been  
 “criminal to violate the trust reposed  
 “in us: but as no man can have any  
 “such right over others, we found no  
 “difficulty about the lawfulness of the  
 “action; and we were too intent upon  
 “recovering our liberty, and rejoining  
 “our friend, to hesitate a moment  
 “about our resolution.

“I told Selima, however, that, as it  
 “was now near the approach of dawn,  
 “and the report of your elopement,  
 “and the apprehension of Khosroff  
 “and Zosima had spread a general  
 “alarm through the haram, we might  
 “be

“ be discovered by some of the eunuchs  
“ or women, who perhaps were not  
“ yet recovered from their fright so far  
“ as to compose themselves for sleep,  
“ should we attempt to make our escape  
“ that night; and that it would be  
“ more prudent to defer our elopement  
“ till to-morrow about midnight, when  
“ I did not doubt of finding you with-  
“ out the north wall of the garden, ac-  
“ cording to the direction I had given  
“ you. Selima, though on the rack of  
“ impatience to accomplish our escape,  
“ readily acquiesced in this proposed  
“ delay, and we both waited with the  
“ utmost anxiety for the approach of  
“ night.”

“ In the mean time the Sophy, whose  
“ love and attention to Selima seemed  
“ to have been redoubled, since his



“ suspicions of her infidelity were re-  
 “ moved, sent an eunuch to her next  
 “ forenoon, asking permission to pay  
 “ his respects to her.

“ Though Selima was really much  
 “ hurt by the flutter and agitation of  
 “ her spirits, occasioned by the sudden  
 “ transports she had felt of grief and  
 “ joy in their utmost extremes, I ad-  
 “ vised her to receive his visit, as it  
 “ was probable that the Sophy, ob-  
 “ serving her in such distress, would  
 “ soon leave her apartments. It hap-  
 “ pened just according to my con-  
 “ jecture. Almalek, greatly concerned  
 “ for Selima’s health, left her in a short  
 “ time, ordering several of his phy-  
 “ cians to attend her ; but Selima  
 “ having expressed a desire to be left  
 “ alone, they retired, after administer-  
 “ ing

“ing a few cordials, which were of  
 “some service to her; and we con-  
 “certed together the plan of our  
 “escape.

“As I did not choose to attempt to  
 “procure ropes for facilitating our  
 “escape, lest I should by any means  
 “excite a suspicion of our intention,  
 “I supplied the want of them by a stra-  
 “tagem. Having cut the cordage  
 “from the sofas and chairs in the  
 “room, I tied them together, and  
 “having, after all the inhabitants of  
 “the haram were asleep, fastened them  
 “to one of the windows, I slid down  
 “by their means into the garden, and  
 “Selima following my example, I re-  
 “ceived her without any hurt into my  
 “arms; then walking together through  
 “the most private avenues of the gar-  
 H 3 “den,

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“den, we came to the north door, and  
“having opened it with the key which  
“I had taken care to procure for the  
“purpose, we found you, to our in-  
“expressible joy, waiting for us on the  
“outside of the wall.

“And now Rhedi,” said the pious  
“Obeyd, “let thy discerning eye trace  
“out, and thy grateful heart adore  
“the gracious interposition of Allah,  
“both in the contrivance and conduct  
“of the various circumstances that fa-  
“cilitated our escape.

“Thou stoodst on the hair-breadth  
“of peril, and Selima and I hung  
“upon the brink of destruction, when  
“the tremendous voice of Almalek  
“burst upon our ears, summoning his  
“guards to attend him into the very  
“room from which thou wast to de-  
“scend



"scend into the garden. Hadst thou  
 "delayed making thy descent one mi-  
 "nute longer, we had all been involved  
 "in one common ruin; thy danger  
 "without the garden walls was no less im-  
 "minent than in the haram. Hadst thou  
 "not at the time when thou wast run-  
 "ning up to the assistance of the dis-  
 "tressed lovers, happened at some  
 "distance to observe the rest of the  
 "guards advancing to support their  
 "companions, or had any of those  
 "guards happened to step aside a  
 "little from the track in which they  
 "set out, and stumble upon the place  
 "where thou wast concealed, thou  
 "hadst infallibly been seized, and cer-  
 "tain death would have been the por-  
 "tion both of thee and thy friends.

"But the various circumstances  
 "which concurred to favour the escape.

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“ both of Selima and me indicated the  
“ interposition of Allah in too remark-  
“ able a manner to be overlooked.

“ Zolima, one of the ladies of the  
“ haram, whom thou sawest appre-  
“ hended with her lover Khosroff  
“ Khan, having for the sake of that  
“ lover, and in order to obtain a re-  
“ lease from her confinement, attempted  
“ to poison the Sophy, from whom she  
“ had received the most distinguishing  
“ favours, and having been strongly  
“ suspected of such an intention by one  
“ of the eunuchs, from whom I had  
“ the relation, she determined, in order  
“ to avoid the danger that threatened  
“ her, to elope if possible with Khos-  
“ roff, whom she had brought into the  
“ haram in disguise. They had made  
“ their escape, it seems, a few minutes  
“ after you; but they had escaped  
“ from

" from the haram undiscovered : you  
 " was the person, it appears, who was  
 " observed to descend by a rope into  
 " the garden ; you was the cause of  
 " that terrible alarm raised by the  
 " Sophy, when he summoned his  
 " guards to attend him ; and you was  
 " the only one whom those guards were  
 " sent in quest of, and whom Almalek  
 " wished to apprehend. But mark,  
 " Rhedi, with attention," continued he,  
 " the destiny of Providence, and let  
 " vice tremble, lest the bolts of divine  
 " vengeance overtake her in the mo-  
 " ment of security.

" Khofroff and Zofima had escaped  
 " unobserved by any one without the  
 " walls of the garden, and thinking  
 " themselves out of the reach of dan-  
 " ger, were preparing to mount their  
 " horses, without suspicion of fear,



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“ when they are arrested by the guards  
 “ before they are aware, and conducted  
 “ to prison, to await the punishment  
 “ due to their crimes ; while thou, the  
 “ object of the Sophy’s jealousy and  
 “ revenge, escapedst falling into the  
 “ hands of thy pursuers by a miracle.

“ The consequences of Khosroff and  
 “ Zosima’s being apprehended, thou  
 “ knowest, have turned out just accord-  
 “ ing to our wishes. The suspicions  
 “ of the Sophy were at once transferred  
 “ from us to them ; Mahmud was pu-  
 “ nished as he deserved ; and we were  
 “ acquitted. Really innocent in our  
 “ conduct, we were believed by Alma-  
 “ lek to be innocent of the attempts  
 “ justly laid to our charge. By this  
 “ means Selima and I obtained his con-  
 “ fidence ; and by obtaining his con-  
 “ fidence we effectuated our escape.

“ Thus

" Thus does the all-wise and omni-  
 " potent Allah conduct the government  
 " of the moral world by springs imper-  
 " ceptible to our limited view, making  
 " the various events of his providence  
 " terminate in the protection and secu-  
 " rity of the virtuous; while the slaves  
 " of vice and sensuality are often  
 " caught in their own toils, and over-  
 " taken in their career by the blast of  
 " unforeseen and irremediable destruc-  
 " tion."

" Such was the improvement which  
 " the pious Obeyd made of the manner  
 " and circumstances of our escape. I  
 " was struck with the moral turn of his  
 " reflections; I was convinced of and  
 " acknowledged their justness, and I  
 " clearly discerned the conducting hand

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“ of Allah in accomplishing our deli-  
“ verance.

“ From a piece of intelligence we  
“ learned from our host, who happened  
“ at this instant to come into the room,  
“ we derived new ground of thank-  
“ fulness for the superintendence of  
“ Providence in the conduct of our  
“ enterprize. Raschid told us, that  
“ last night, about the very time he  
“ expected us, an eunuch had been  
“ sent by one of the ladies of the haram  
“ with a message to her lover, who  
“ lived in his neighbourhood, and that  
“ by mistake he had called at his house.  
“ On hearing this circumstance, we re-  
“ flected, that had our first attempt to  
“ elope been successful, we had pro-  
“ bably been discovered by the eunuch,  
“ and



“and all our hopes had been frustrated  
“at once.

“After offering up our united tri-  
“bute of praise to Allah for his signal  
“interpositions hitherto in our favour,  
“and particularly for rendering those  
“events which we considered as most  
“disastrous, finally subservient to our  
“escape, and the very means of our  
“deliverance, we recommended our-  
“selves to his protection in the course  
“of our future journey; and Obeyd  
“having desired the camels to be  
“brought forth to him, ordered the  
“servants to go before with the bag-  
“gage. Intimation being given us that  
“the camels were ready, I went in  
“order to acquaint Selima of it, whom  
“I found dressed in the new garb  
“which we had prevailed with her to  
“assume;

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“ assume; on my entering the room  
“ the blush of modesty glowed in her  
“ cheek, and gave an additional lustre  
“ to the splendor of her beauty, which  
“ might have vied with that of the  
“ lovely companions of the Houn in  
“ the regions of paradise. I clasped her  
“ in an ecstasy of joy and pleasure to  
“ my bosom, and flushed with the  
“ hopes of a happy issue of our journey.  
“ we were just going to set out, when  
“ an alarm was given, that Obeyd and  
“ Selima had made an elopement from  
“ the haram; that a thousand horse-  
“ men, who had orders to patrol  
“ along the roads around the city, had  
“ been sent in pursuit of them; and  
“ that as many of the royal body of  
“ foot-guards had instructions to tra-  
“ verse the streets of Ispahan, and to  
“ make the strictest search for the fugi-  
“ tives

"rives through every suspected house  
"in the city.

"This intelligence was like a dread-  
"ful thunderclap in our ears. Selima  
"was terrified beyond measure: her  
"distracted imagination exhibited no-  
"thing to view but pictures of horror  
"and despair. She figured to herself  
"the guards at her heels, herself,  
"Obeyd, and me dragged by them,  
"with every circumstance of indignity  
"and outrage, into the presence of the  
"furious Sophy, and subjected to the  
"severest tortures which his invention  
"could suggest. Obeyd however,  
"with a presence of mind that no  
"accident could discompose, ordered  
"the camels to be unloaded and put  
"up immediately, and calling upon  
"Raschid, who to his natural sagacity  
"joined



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“ joined a fertility in stratagem, asked  
“ him whether there was any place of  
“ concealment in his house, where we  
“ could remain in safety till the danger  
“ was over. Raschid told him there  
“ was a vault below his parlour, to  
“ which there was a descent by a trap-  
“ door, that was covered from the  
“ view by a carpet spread over it, where  
“ he imagined we would be safe; that  
“ however, if he did not think they  
“ would be perfectly secure in this  
“ vault, there was still another below  
“ it, the entrance to which was covered  
“ with a thin flat stone, that had the  
“ appearance of being a part of the  
“ pavement, where they would doubt-  
“ less be in absolute safety, but that as  
“ there was no air communicated to  
“ this dungeon by any conveyance  
“ whatever, it was impossible that one  
“ person,

“ person, much less three, could  
 “ breathe in it for any considerable  
 “ time.

“ While Raschid was speaking, the  
 “ tidings reached our ears that the  
 “ guards were scouring the streets in  
 “ our neighbourhood, and driving like  
 “ so many blood-hounds from house to  
 “ house in quest of us. We all rushed  
 “ therefore into the parlour immedi-  
 “ ately; and Raschid opening the trap-  
 “ door, we descended into the vault in  
 “ an instant. Then Raschid having  
 “ raised the stone in the floor, which  
 “ opened a passage into the second,  
 “ and having supported it with a piece  
 “ of wood which he had brought in  
 “ his hand, suggested to us, that in  
 “ case of necessity we could descend  
 “ into it; and he promised that if the  
 “ first

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“ first concealment was discovered by  
“ the inquisitors, and they proposed  
“ to ransack it, that he would give us  
“ notice of our danger, by suddenly  
“ overturning one of the tables in the  
“ room, as it were by accident, on  
“ hearing which signal we could de-  
“ scend into the dungeon, and let the  
“ stone fall upon the mouth of it.”

“ Both Obeyd and I approved highly  
“ of the contrivance of Raschid, and  
“ thanked him for his judicious advice.  
“ Just when he was leaving us, however,  
“ in our prison, it occurred to Obeyd,  
“ that there was a bundle of Selima’s  
“ clothes and ours wrapped up in the  
“ heart of one of the bales of silk, and  
“ that if the bales should happen to be  
“ unfolded by the emissaries of the  
“ Sophy, and the bundle found, the  
“ whole



" whole affair would be discovered.  
 " He begged Raschid therefore in-  
 " stantly to unloose one of the bales to  
 " which he directed him, and to take  
 " out and bring to him the bundle he  
 " had mentioned. Raschid returned to  
 " us with it immediately ; but had  
 " scarce delivered it, when we heard the  
 " guard knocking at the gate, and  
 " calling for admittance. Springing  
 " up to the parlour, therefore, in a  
 " moment, without the least confu-  
 " sion, and letting drop the trap-door,  
 " which he covered with a carpet, he  
 " ran to the gate, and admitted the  
 " guard into his house. The guard,  
 " having with the utmost strictness  
 " ransacked every other corner, came  
 " at last into the parlour. When Se-  
 " lima heard the sound of their feet  
 " above our heads, she quaked with  
 " fear,

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“fear, her face became pale and blood-  
 “less, and she was just ready to sink  
 “into a swoon, when we heard the  
 “table fall. At that instant Obeyd  
 “threw himself into the dungeon, and  
 “I catching Selima in my arms, let  
 “her slide down into those of Obeyd;  
 “and following them both, let the  
 “stone down upon the mouth of the  
 “pit. This was our last resource.  
 “While we were shut up in this dark  
 “cave we still heard the tread of our  
 “enemies feet, and one of them calling  
 “for a light to search narrowly the sub-  
 “terranean dwelling into which they  
 “had entered. When I heard a light  
 “calling for, I began indeed to tremble;  
 “Obeyd himself was afraid; and Se-  
 “lima, by this time past feeling, had  
 “fallen into a deep swoon. A candle  
 “was brought: the reflexion of its  
 “rays

" rays cast a glimmering light on our  
 " dark retreat. Happening to look  
 " up to the crevice through which the  
 " rays of light descended, I could ob-  
 " serve the faces of some of the guards,  
 " and I even fancied they were gazing  
 " at me ; but my fears deceived me.  
 " These however were removed in an  
 " instant, upon hearing them again  
 " ascend into the parlour ; where,  
 " having searched the bales of silk that  
 " were lying in it, they left the house  
 " and proceeded in their career.

" As soon as the guard were without  
 " the gate, Raschid returned to us im-  
 " mediately, and raising the stone,  
 " released us from our confinement.  
 " Selima was still in a swoon, but re-  
 " covered in a little after enjoying the  
 " fresh air ; and we all congratulated  
 " each



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“ each other upon our fortunate  
“ escape, ascribing praise to Allah for  
“ the deliverance we had met with.

“ We continued several days in the  
“ house of Raschid, passing in the opi-  
“ nion of his servants and neighbours  
“ for merchants travelling towards  
“ Armenia, who being supposed to be  
“ friends of Raschid had lodged with  
“ him a few nights by the way.

“ At last, when the noise of the  
“ search was over, we set out on our  
“ journey for mount Ararat, with the  
“ faithful Raschid and two servants,  
“ who were ignorant of our situation  
“ and circumstances, along with three  
“ camels, besides those on which we  
“ rode; and travelling with the utmost  
“ expedition, under favour of the

“ night, we arrived by break of day  
 “ at a wood about sixteen miles distance  
 “ from Ispahan. Selima, Obeyd, and  
 “ I having concealed ourselves in caves  
 “ and holes throughout the day, while  
 “ Raschid undertook the charge of the  
 “ camels, we set out again on our tra-  
 “ vels next evening, and before day-  
 “ light we were forty miles distant  
 “ from the capital of Persia. We pro-  
 “ ceeded on our journey in this manner  
 “ through the province of Eyrac Agem,  
 “ travelling all night, and resting  
 “ throughout the day in the most se-  
 “ questered places we could find, till  
 “ we were at least a hundred and fifty  
 “ miles on our way to mount Ararat.

“ In passing through Calbin, we  
 “ heard immense rewards proclaimed  
 “ for apprehending Selima, Obeyd, or  
 “ me ;

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“ me ; but as we were now in a coun-  
“ try in which we were wholly un-  
“ known, and travelled in the disguise  
“ of merchants, we were hopeful, by  
“ a cautious and circumspective con-  
“ duct, to escape detection.

“ After leaving Casbin, we directed  
“ our course through the province of  
“ Ghilan, Adirbutzan, and Sherivan ;  
“ in which last place having sold our  
“ bales of silk, before we entered Ar-  
“ menia, we dismissed the faithful  
“ Raschid with the camels, rewarding  
“ him liberally for his trouble, and  
“ each of us resuming his proper habit,  
“ travelled on foot towards mount  
“ Ararat, the place of our destination,  
“ which we reached in two days, having  
“ been in all about three weeks on our  
“ journey from Ispahan.—But lest I  
“ should



"should exhaust your attention, or my  
 "own strength," said Rhedi, "I will  
 "here interrupt my narration, and after  
 "breathing a little, shall proceed to  
 "relate to you the subsequent events  
 "of my unfortunate life."

I AFTER

AFTER pausing for some time, Rhedi again resumed the history of his life.

“ When we were arrived at the foot  
 “ of the mountain, and were viewing  
 “ the long-extended forest before us,  
 “ Obeyd pointing to a spot in the  
 “ middle of it, which presented a small  
 “ opening surrounded with trees, “ Yon-  
 “ der,” said he, “ in the depth of that  
 “ embowering wood, lives the vene-  
 “ rable sage Bondezir, the friend of  
 “ my father, and the guide of my  
 “ youth, on whose head the hand of  
 “ time has strowed his silver honours,  
 “ and whose soul is the mansion of  
 “ wisdom and virtue ; let us,” said he,  
 “ seek out his sequestered abode, and  
 “ if it be agreeable to your inclina-  
 “ tions,

" tions, we will spend the remainder  
 " of our days with him in the tran-  
 " quillity of retired life, from which;  
 " for my own part, I expect to reap  
 " more real felicity than I have ever  
 " experienced in the noise and bustle  
 " of a court." Both Selima and I  
 " assured him, that nothing could  
 " be more agreeable to our choice than  
 " such a plan of life; that the luxuries  
 " to which we had been accustomed  
 " had not so far vitiated our taste as to  
 " destroy our relish for those pure and  
 " simple pleasures which are the effect  
 " of innocence, temperance, and vir-  
 " tue, and which are most effectually  
 " cultivated in the shade of retirement;  
 " and that we wished for nothing so  
 " much as to be placed in a situation  
 " in which we might cultivate those  
 " pleasures with most advantage, and



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“indulge the genuine feelings of the  
“heart without disguise.” “If these  
“are your sentiments and resolutions,”  
“resumed Obeyd, “let us penetrate  
“the recesses of this forest, and endea-  
“vour to find out the cell of Bon-  
“dezin.”

“Accordingly we immediately en-  
“tered the wood, in which we found  
“many by-paths, that would have be-  
“wildered a traveller that was unac-  
“quainted with the place; but as the  
“forest was well known to Obeyd, on  
“account of his frequent visits to the  
“hermit in his youth, we travelled  
“safely under his direction, and at last  
“reached the spot which has afforded  
“you this homely but welcome recep-  
“tion.

“We

" We entered the cell with that re-  
 " verence which was due to the wis-  
 " dom and sanctity of its owner; but  
 " the hermit was not within. We  
 " amused ourselves therefore a little in  
 " surveying the furniture of his grotto,  
 " which in its plainness and simplicity  
 " was every way suitable to the nature  
 " of the place, and the character of  
 " the possessor.

" In one corner we found a kind of  
 " table made of a large slate, which  
 " was fixed on a pedestal of stone in  
 " the manner in which you saw it, and  
 " on it there were several books of  
 " piety and devotion, particularly the  
 " Koran and some others, containing  
 " the revelations of the Prophet, and  
 " the visions of Bondezir's predeces-  
 " sors who inhabited this cell. In

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“ another corner, in a part of the cell  
 “ secreted from the rest, were piled up  
 “ a few cheese on shelves that were  
 “ dug out of the rock; and besides  
 “ these were placed some vessels of  
 “ milk, and some heaps both of fresh  
 “ and dried fruits, that were gathered  
 “ from the neighbouring mountains  
 “ and plains. The furniture of the  
 “ cell convinced us that the hermit  
 “ was still alive, and therefore we went  
 “ out immediately in search of him.  
 “ We had not travelled far on this  
 “ errand, when we discovered the  
 “ hoary sage sitting under the shade of  
 “ some spreading tree by the side of  
 “ the fountain, near his hermitage,  
 “ leaning on his staff, and at one time  
 “ conversing with a young man and a  
 “ young woman who sat close by  
 “ him, at another attending to the  
 “ sports



"sports of two lovely boys who  
 "prattled and played around him in  
 "all the innocent simplicity of child-  
 "hood, and whom he seemed to gaze  
 "on with ineffable tenderness and de-  
 "light. We all stopt spontaneously,  
 "as it had been by concert, to contem-  
 "plate and to enjoy this pleasing scene  
 "of domestic life, till Bondezir happen-  
 "ing to cast an eye towards us, Obeyd  
 "immediately went up to him. The  
 "hermit observing his approach, rose  
 "to salute him; and recognizing at  
 "once the son of his friend, and the  
 "pupil whom he had taught, "Wel-  
 "come, my dear friend," said he,  
 "throwing his arms around him, and  
 "embracing him with all the ardor of  
 "parental affection, "to this solitary  
 "dwelling, and welcome the strangers  
 "who have accompanied thy steps to  
 I 4 "the

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“ the best entertainment which my  
 “ humble abode can afford ; but ne-  
 “ cessity, and not choice, has doubtless  
 “ compelled you to take shelter in this  
 “ unfrequented desert : the children of  
 “ prosperity, who bask in the sunshine  
 “ of fortune, and are nursed in the lap  
 “ of luxury, have seldom the inclina-  
 “ tion or the fortitude to exchange the  
 “ court for the cottage, to renounce  
 “ the superfluities and delicacies of life  
 “ to which they have been accustomed,  
 “ and to live according to the dictates  
 “ of uncorrupted nature.” “ The  
 “ visit which we have paid you, vене-  
 “ rable father, in your sequestered re-  
 “ treat,” replied Obeyd, “ is partly  
 “ the effect of necessity, partly the  
 “ result of deliberate choice. These  
 “ amiable strangers, whom I beg to  
 “ recommend to your hospitality, are  
 “ obliged

" obliged to seek for shelter from the  
 " arm of violence in this lonely desert,  
 " and I have voluntarily abandoned  
 " the pageantry of a court, in order to  
 " accompany them in their flight, and  
 " attach myself to their fortune, and  
 " all of us, with hearts truly indifferent  
 " to the blandishments of honour  
 " and wealth, or the luxuries of life;  
 " are desirous of spending the remain-  
 " der of our days with you, whose  
 " temperate meals will contribute to  
 " our health, and whose excellent les-  
 " sons of morality will establish our  
 " souls in virtue, and qualify us for  
 " the felicity of paradise, which the  
 " Prophet hath assured us is reserved  
 " for the faithful."

" As he uttered these words, the  
 " venerable man, regarding Selima



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“ and me with a look of complacency  
 “ that indicated the benignity of his  
 “ disposition, and the gentleness of his  
 “ manners, “ Children,” said he, “ the  
 “ testimony of Obeyd, confirmed by  
 “ your own engaging appearance, is  
 “ sufficient to recommend you to my  
 “ esteem; but with regard to the prac-  
 “ tice of virtue, which you are desirous  
 “ of learning from me, I am not so  
 “ arrogant as to pretend to teach what  
 “ I myself, hoary as you now see me,  
 “ am still studying to acquire. A vir-  
 “ tuous life is a gradual and progres-  
 “ sive state, and the highest advance-  
 “ ments in virtue are not to be attained  
 “ without the most strenuous exertions,  
 “ confirmed by reiterated habit. The  
 “ tranquillity of retired life, to which  
 “ I have devoted myself, may, by its  
 “ being less subject to the influence of  
 “ “ tempta-

"temptation, and by its affording bet-  
 "ter opportunities of recollection and  
 "meditation, be peculiarly favourable  
 "to those exertions; and if I can,  
 "either by my counsel or experience,  
 "aid your virtuous resolutions, my  
 "best endeavours shall not be wanting.  
 "Your society," added he, "in the  
 "mean time, will be highly agreeable  
 "to me; and I doubt not that our  
 "mutual happiness will increase in  
 "proportion to the strength of our  
 "mutual attachments, and to the in-  
 "dulgence of those affections for the  
 "exercise of which domestic life af-  
 "fords the greatest scope." Then  
 "embracing Selima and me with the  
 "most cordial friendship, he proposed  
 "that we should all walk with him  
 "into his cell, in order to refresh our-  
 "selves after our fatigue with such  
 "I 6 "pro-

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" provisions as the place afforded,  
 " which," said he, " though it is re-  
 " plenished with none of those rich  
 " sauces and ragouts that you have  
 " been accustomed to, and which a  
 " vitiated taste represents as palatable,  
 " is however stored with abundance of  
 " such food as is most suitable to a  
 " natural and uncorrupted taste, such as  
 " is most conducive to health, and  
 " will probably in a little time be the  
 " most agreeable to your choice."  
 " Being greatly exhausted with fatigue  
 " and hunger, we gladly accepted the  
 " the invitation, and walked all together  
 " towards his cell.

" While we were on the way Obeyd  
 " was frequently glancing his eye on  
 " the young man and woman and on  
 " the two boys whom we found with  
 " the



" the hermit by the side of the fountain,  
 " which Bondezir happening at last to ob-  
 " serve, " you are desirous to know," said  
 " he, " who these persons are whom you  
 " see here travelling with us to the cell.  
 " Cannot you discover," continued he,  
 " in the features of that young woman  
 " some resemblance to my dear Zem-  
 " roud? Peri o Konkonna, for that is  
 " her name, was indeed only a child  
 " when you last visited this solitary  
 " abode; but she is since married to  
 " this young man, whose name is Re-  
 " zoud, and these two boys whom you  
 " now see playing around us are their  
 " children." Then addressing himself  
 " to me, " had I continued," said he,  
 " in the public walks of life in which  
 " I at first set out, and been possessed  
 " of that fortune which Obeyd knows  
 " I was unjustly deprived of by the  
 " perfidy

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“ perfidy of an uncle, to whose tutelage  
 “ I was committed, I might have obtain-  
 “ ed a richer husband for my daughter,  
 “ but I could not have obtained one  
 “ more deserving of her: they are in-  
 “ deed both worthy of each other, and  
 “ are the support and comfort of my  
 “ declining years.” As he uttered  
 “ these words the filial tear started  
 “ into the eyes of Peri ô Konkonna;  
 “ both she and Rezoud cast a  
 “ reverential and affectionate look on  
 “ Bondezir; and then blushing through  
 “ native modesty bent their eyes to-  
 “ wards the ground. “ This young  
 “ man,” continued Bondezir, “ possesses  
 “ a farm at the distance of two miles,  
 “ hard by the side of this forest;  
 “ both he and my daughter, know-  
 “ ing how much I am attached,  
 “ from the power of habit to this cell,  
 “ to yonder fountain, and to the walks  
 “ and

" and groves around, which to me are  
 " so familiar and so delightful, visit  
 " me every day with these dear infants,  
 " though with considerable inconveni-  
 " ency to themselves. But since you  
 " have resolved to take up your abode  
 " with me in this sequestered retreat,  
 " there will be less occasion for their  
 " daily attendance on me. We will  
 " continue however to live as the  
 " members of one family; we will  
 " visit each other as often as our con-  
 " venience will allow; and I am  
 " inclined to hope that my declining  
 " sun will shine forth with a mild and  
 " serene splendor on the evening of  
 " of my days, that he will set in a clear  
 " and unruffled sky, and that he will  
 " rise again with transcendent bright-  
 " ness in the climes of paradise."

" We



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“ We had by this time arrived at  
 “ the hermitage, and having entered  
 “ into it, the reverend sage desired his  
 “ daughter to set before his guests  
 “ the best entertainment which she  
 “ had. Accordingly, she brought,  
 “ with the utmost dispatch, some  
 “ vessels of excellent milk, cheese which  
 “ she herself had made, and several  
 “ kinds of choice fruits, both fresh and  
 “ dried, which she and her husband  
 “ had gathered, and for our drink,  
 “ some fine fresh whey, and the pure  
 “ transparent water which gushed from  
 “ the rock. “ This plain and simple  
 “ food,” said our benevolent host,  
 “ will, I am afraid, not be so palatable  
 “ to your taste, accustomed as you  
 “ have been to those dainties that are  
 “ contrived for stimulating the sated  
 “ appetite, and which the pampered  
 “ and.

" and overcharged stomach is unable  
 " to convert into wholesome nourish-  
 " ment; but as I observed already, a  
 " little time will reconcile you to that  
 " food which is agreeable to nature,  
 " and which is all that nature requires:  
 " besides that you will feel the happy  
 " effects of our temperate way of  
 " living, and of the air and exercise  
 " which we enjoy in this pleasing re-  
 " treat, in contributing both to the  
 " health of your bodies and the  
 " serenity of your minds."

" We needed no arguments to con-  
 " vince us, that the food which was  
 " set before us was excellent of its  
 " kind, or to persuade us to eat heartily.  
 " Feeling the calls of hunger very  
 " urgent, we thought the food that  
 " was set before us, the most delicious

" we

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“ we had ever tasted; and did not in  
 “ the least regret the want of any of  
 “ the superfluities to which we had  
 “ been accustomed. After our appe-  
 “ tites were fully satisfied and the  
 “ dishes that were set before us were  
 “ removed, the venerable sage re-  
 “ quested, that I would favour him  
 “ with the relation of our history, of  
 “ our acquaintance with his friend  
 “ Obeyd, and of the motives which  
 “ determined all of us to make choice  
 “ of this solitary cell as the place of  
 “ our retreat.

“ I then related to him in the man-  
 “ ner in which I had done to you, the  
 “ various circumstances of my life;  
 “ gave him an account of the rise and  
 “ progress of my passion for Selima,  
 “ of the many cruel disappointments  
 “ and



“ and calamities to which we were  
 “ both subjected; and lastly, acquainted  
 “ him of my obligations to our com-  
 “ mon friend Obeyd, and of the means  
 “ by which he had brought about  
 “ our escape.

“ After hearing a relation of the  
 “ whole, “ Your disappointments and  
 “ your sufferings, my children,” says he,  
 “ have been severe; but the angel of  
 “ adversity, I hope, has now ceased  
 “ to inflict his scourge: your calami-  
 “ ties, I trust, are at an end, and the  
 “ holy prophet has doubtless con-  
 “ ducted you to this hermitage, as a  
 “ secure asylum from the dangers to  
 “ which you have been exposed. I  
 “ flatter myself that I am destined to be  
 “ the instrument of consummating your  
 “ happiness;” and addressing himself to  
 “ Obeyd,

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“ Obeyd, “ If you my friend,” said he,  
“ concur with me, the felicity of this  
“ worthy pair shall be immediately  
“ completed. Do you,” added he, “ act  
“ the part of a father in giving this  
“ amiable lady to her betrothed lover,  
“ and I myself will officiate in bring-  
“ ing them under those vows, which  
“ will indissolubly unite them to each  
“ other.” Transported with a proposal  
“ the execution of which was to put me  
“ in possession of the highest earthly  
“ felicity, I eagerly caught the hand  
“ of Selima, and urged her with the  
“ most earnest and tender importunity  
“ to comply with it; with a countenance  
“ effused with blushes she let me under-  
“ stand that she gave her consent. We  
“ were accordingly without any further  
“ ceremony or preparation married that  
“ instant, and our mutual constancy was  
“ rewarded

“ rewarded with the full accomplishment  
“ of our wishes.

“ In the possession of Selima my  
“ earthly felicity was completed; and  
“ we all lived together for several  
“ years in a state of the sweetest harmony  
“ and of the most improving friend-  
“ ship that mortals can enjoy. In our  
“ amusements and occupations in this  
“ delightful solitude, and especially in  
“ that endearing society in which we  
“ lived, we realized the idea of the  
“ golden age, and experienced those  
“ serene and heart-felt pleasures which  
“ flow from innocence and virtue,  
“ and which were enjoyed by some of  
“ the first inhabitants of the world,  
“ whose lives were regulated by the  
“ dictates of simple nature, before the  
“ arts of luxury had vitiated the taste  
“ and depraved the manners of man-  
“ kind.

“ Sometimes



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“ Sometimes we walked together,  
 “ sometimes apart, as humour or in-  
 “ clination dictated; sometimes we  
 “ ranged the mountains in quest of  
 “ herbs and fruits, at other times we  
 “ reposed ourselves under the shade of  
 “ some spreading tree, and listened to  
 “ the lessons of wisdom and virtue  
 “ which flowed from the tongue of  
 “ Bondezir; sometimes we were visited  
 “ by the neighbouring shepherds, some-  
 “ times we returned their visits, follow-  
 “ ing their flocks through the mea-  
 “ dows and mountains on which they  
 “ grazed, and sometimes Selima and I,  
 “ stealing as it were unperceived from  
 “ the rest of company, and wandering  
 “ through the woods, or sitting on the  
 “ brink of a clear fountain, gave vent  
 “ to the emotions of our hearts without  
 “ disguise and poured forth the dictates  
 “ of

“ of mutual love, tenderness, and friend-  
 “ ship into each other's bosom.

“ To consummate my happiness, if  
 “ any thing could be said to be wanting  
 “ to its accomplishment, about a year  
 “ after our marriage I was blessed  
 “ with a son, and in about two years  
 “ after his birth with a daughter, who  
 “ were brought up with the children  
 “ of Rezoud and Peri ô Konkonna,  
 “ and we all lived together for several  
 “ years in the utmost harmony and  
 “ happiness, like children of the same  
 “ family, considering Bondezir as our  
 “ common father, and concurring in  
 “ every sentiment of duty and affection  
 “ that was due to a parent. But alas!  
 “ all earthly happiness is fleeting and  
 “ uncertain as the sun beams which  
 “ play upon yonder lake. The wor-  
 “ thy

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“ thy and venerable sage, who had so  
 “ long inhabited this cell, at last paid  
 “ the debt of nature, and left us in  
 “ deep affliction for the loss of one  
 “ to whom we were all attached by the  
 “ strongest ties of esteem, friendship,  
 “ and obligation. To aggravate the  
 “ stroke, our dear friend Obeyd soon  
 “ after expired, and drew fresh streams  
 “ of grief from our wounded hearts.  
 “ In yonder mount of earth, covered  
 “ with green sods, and shaded by two  
 “ lofty trees, whose branches are inter-  
 “ woven with each other, and near the  
 “ fountain where we first discovered  
 “ Bondezir, are interred the remains  
 “ of that excellent man and his worthy  
 “ friend. On a certain day every week  
 “ Rezoud and Peri ô Konkonna come  
 “ hither in order to visit their tomb  
 “ with me; and we join with min-  
 “ gling



“ gling our sighs and tears together,  
 “ and in strewing fresh leaves over the  
 “ graves of the deceased. Selima how-  
 “ ever and my children were yet spared  
 “ to me; and while they were spared,  
 “ I was able to support every other af-  
 “ fliction with some degree of forti-  
 “ tude.

“ But an event, to me of all others  
 “ the most deplorable, soon after hap-  
 “ pened, which extinguished all my  
 “ prospects of earthly felicity, and  
 “ overcast my soul with a cloud of  
 “ misery, black, and dark, as the  
 “ shades of death. While I recollect  
 “ this direful event, my tortured heart  
 “ still throbs at the reflection, the  
 “ fountain of my grief is opened, and  
 “ all its wounds bleed afresh.

K

“ As

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As he uttered these words, the heaving sighs which crouded his bosom in quick succession stifled his speech, and occasioned a pause in the narration. Amur, Almerine, and Mouli, though they could only yet conjecture the cause, from a sympathy of feeling, burst into tears; Almerine in particular was deeply affected, and readily anticipating in her own imagination the calamity which was the cause of the unusual agitation, she observed, "Alas!" said she, regarding him with a look of sensibility and pity peculiar to herself, "this violent emotion which agitates thy soul can only be occasioned by the death of Selima." "O speak! Is not this the cause of that anguish which wrings thy heart?" "Your conjecture," recovering himself a little

a little, "is too true; and the man-  
 "ner of her death was an aggravation  
 "of my affliction, and gave a shock  
 "to my whole frame that I shall never  
 "be able to recover.

"The dear partner of my life having  
 "been one day employed in washing  
 "the clothes of her children on the  
 "brink of that rivulet, just where you  
 "see it fall into a deep bason, her  
 "daughter, then a child, prattling and  
 "playing around her, her foot slipped,  
 "and falling backward, her head  
 "striking against the rock by the side  
 "of the rivulet, she tumbled into the  
 "pool below, from which, benumbed  
 "as she had been by the fall, she was  
 "unable to rescue herself. The child,  
 "terrified and affected by the dreadful  
 "catastrophe, ran to the cell, crying,  
 K 2 "that



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" that her mother had fallen into the  
 " pool!" Thunderstruck with the dismal  
 " tidings, my blood ran cold in my  
 " veins, my hair stiffened with horror,  
 " and I was for a moment fixed in  
 " speechless agony; but on hearing  
 " the child utter another scream, I  
 " started from my seat like one dis-  
 " tracted, and flew in an instant to the  
 " fatal place; but alas! I came too  
 " late. — Regardless of my own life,  
 " while I believed a dearer to be at  
 " stake, I plunged immediately into the  
 " pool, caught hold of Selima's cloaths,  
 " and drew her to the bank. While I  
 " raised her from the ground, the water  
 " gushed from her mouth, and the  
 " blood trickled from the wound she  
 " had received in one of her temples  
 " from the fall. I pressed her to my  
 " bosom, I applied my mouth to her  
 " lips,

“ lips, I beseeched, I adjured her to  
 “ speak to me, but she uttered not a  
 “ word ; the power of speech had  
 “ failed her, and her gentle soul was  
 “ upon the point of forsaking the seat  
 “ of life. Raising once more her dying  
 “ eyes, she cast upon me a look of ines-  
 “ fable tenderness and pity ; she heaved  
 “ a deep sigh, and expired in my arms.  
 “ When I perceived her without mo-  
 “ tion or life, my arms, which were  
 “ clasped round her waist, quitted their  
 “ hold, and I sunk to the earth in an  
 “ agony of grief and horror, that for  
 “ a while deprived me of the power of  
 “ utterance, and almost drove me into  
 “ phrenzy. Selima fell by my side.  
 “ Casting my eyes at one time towards  
 “ heaven, as if I accused Providence  
 “ on account of the fate of Selima, at  
 “ another upon the pale, livid, and  
 K 3 “ breath-

“ breathless corpse beside me, I uttered  
 “ the most lamentable cries, I tore my  
 “ hair in the fury of my passion, I  
 “ rolled in the dust, and abandoned  
 “ myself to the excesses of inconsolable  
 “ grief. I again folded the sad remains  
 “ of the dear creature in my arms ; I  
 “ pressed her lifeless body to my breast ;  
 “ I often repeated her name, and be-  
 “ seeched her to hear and answer the  
 “ voice of her Rhedi, as if she had  
 “ been sensible of my request.—“ But  
 “ ah ! my Selima,” exclaimed I, with  
 “ a sigh that swelled and almost burst  
 “ my heaving heart, “ thou no more  
 “ knowest the calls of thy Rhedi !  
 “ Thy pure and innocent soul has  
 “ forsaken its mortal tenement, and  
 “ under the conduct of its guardian  
 “ angels taken its flight to the mansions  
 “ of paradise. Ah ! why am I not suf-  
 “ fered



“fered to accompany thy flight? Why  
“am I compelled by the severe destiny  
“of Providence to drag out a wretched  
“life without the society of her who  
“could alone render life comfortable  
“or supportable.”

“While I was thus giving myself  
“up to devouring grief, my children,  
“the dear pledges of my Selima’s love,  
“were pouring forth their little souls  
“in the most moving cries and la-  
“mentations for the death of their  
“mother; and the reflection on their  
“helpless state, and the irreparable  
“loss they had sustained, aggravated  
“the stroke of my affliction, and gave  
“a fresh wound to my bleeding heart.  
“I folded the two lovely babes, the  
“sole remains and representatives of  
“Selima, in my arms; I hung over  
K 4 “them

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“ them with a sort of mournful delight,  
“ bathing their faces with the tears that  
“ streamed from my eyes, and I at-  
“ tempted to pour into their hearts  
“ that balm of consolation of which I  
“ myself stood so much in need, but  
“ could not obtain.

“ Judging it proper, however, to  
“ remove my children from a scene  
“ which was calculated to feed and to  
“ renew their grief, I carried them  
“ away from the dead body of their  
“ mother into the cell, committing  
“ them to the care of a humane and  
“ tender-hearted shepherd, who was in  
“ the use of visiting us in our solitude,  
“ and who, hearing of the calamity  
“ which had befallen me, had come  
“ upon the sad occasion to express  
“ his sympathy, and mingle his tears  
“ with

" with mine. Having left my chil-  
 " dren under the care of this shepherd,  
 " whose name was Mansur, I repaired  
 " again to the place where the body of  
 " my Selima lay ; on the banks of the  
 " rivulet, near that fatal pool where  
 " she was drowned, I dug her grave,  
 " and deposited her dear remains in the  
 " dust. In this shady arbour, which  
 " these hands have planted around her  
 " grave, and in the spot where we  
 " now sit, is interred the best and ten-  
 " derest of women. To this conse-  
 " crated arbour I have never failed to  
 " repair once every day, and prostrating  
 " myself on the spot where her ashes  
 " are laid, I give vent to my over-  
 " charged heart, and pour forth tor-  
 " rents of tears to the memory of the  
 " deceased.



“ For some time my grief was rather  
“ augmented than diminished, which  
“ was partly owing to my solitary  
“ life, of which I still became fonder,  
“ partly to the indulgence I gave to  
“ it, and partly to those peculiar me-  
“ thods I was led into through inclina-  
“ tion, which were naturally adapted  
“ to increase it. Every object around  
“ me was calculated to inspire and to  
“ nourish this disposition. Every tree  
“ under whose shade I sat, and every  
“ fountain of whose waters I drank,  
“ recalled to my remembrance the  
“ idea of Selima. But when I retired  
“ into this grove where her precious  
“ dust is interred, on purpose to meditate  
“ on the excellencies of the dear deceased,  
“ and to pay my daily tribute of tears  
“ to her memory, her beauty, her virtues,  
“ and her accomplishments rose to my  
“ view

“ view at once in all their lustre, and  
 “ so entirely occupied my mind, as to  
 “ leave no room for any other idea. I  
 “ became indifferent to the world and  
 “ all its attractions; and so much was  
 “ I absorbed in the contemplation of  
 “ the sole object of my affections, that  
 “ I was upon these occasions, even in a  
 “ great measure, deaf to the calls of  
 “ duty towards my children. I thought  
 “ of nothing but Selima; and earnestly  
 “ wished to be released from this brittle  
 “ tenement of clay, that I might once  
 “ more rejoin the society of my lovely  
 “ fair one in the regions of paradise.

“ While I was one day pouring forth  
 “ my usual tribute of tears on the grave  
 “ of Selima, and indulging the most  
 “ ardent desires of being re-united to her  
 “ without any more dread of separa-  
 K 6                      “ tion,

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" tion, I felt the ground trembling  
 " under my feet ; I saw the trees of  
 " the grove nodding over my head ;  
 " and I perceived a being of a dignity  
 " superior to that of the race of mor-  
 " tals, standing before me ; a robe  
 " spangled with the dyes of heaven  
 " floated on his shoulders in graceful  
 " majesty ; a refulgent diadem encir-  
 " cled his head, his right hand wield-  
 " ed the rod of chastisement, his eye  
 " glanced the lightning of indignation,  
 " and his brow lowered with the frown  
 " of disdain. From the menacing air  
 " which appeared in his countenance,  
 " I knew him to be the angel of re-  
 " proof, and I was petrified at once  
 " while he delivered his rebuke,  
 " Unthinking mortal," said he, " dost  
 " thou presume to oppose thy wishes  
 " to the destiny of Providence, and  
 " the



“ the will of the Omnipotent and  
 “ infinitely Wise? As he has dispersed  
 “ his bounties to the children of mor-  
 “ tality, has he not a title to resume  
 “ the blessings he hath lent? And as  
 “ he has appointed to each his station  
 “ in life, has he not a right to require  
 “ of each the performance of the du-  
 “ ties which are correspondent to the  
 “ station he has assigned? Can a  
 “ reptile of the earth censure the dis-  
 “ pensations of unerring Wisdom with-  
 “ out arrogance? Or can he desert  
 “ the station appointed him by the  
 “ Eternal, or neglect the duties of it  
 “ without guilt? Thou repineest at the  
 “ dispensations of Providence, which  
 “ have separated thee from Selima,  
 “ and thou wishest, with impatience,  
 “ to be released from thy mortal  
 “ tenement, that thou mightest be  
 “ united

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“ united to her to separate no more;  
“ thou dost not consider that the wish  
“ implies an opposition to thee will  
“ of him who gave thee thy being,  
“ to whom it is thy duty to submit.  
“ Let a conviction therefore of the  
“ just administration and righteous  
“ order of Providence, though at pre-  
“ sent imperceptible to thy limited  
“ faculties, seal thy lips in silence, and  
“ still the murmurs of thy heart.  
“ If thou wishest to be re-united to  
“ Selima, and to participate of her  
“ happiness, make it thy study to  
“ imitate her example; train up thy  
“ children in the principles of virtue  
“ and stedfastly persevere in the path  
“ of duty; and thy perseverance shall  
“ be rewarded with the felicity of  
“ paradise.” As he uttered these  
“ last words, his brows, which  
“ had

“ had been contracted into a frown,  
 “ acquired an aspect of more benignity;  
 “ his accent became less severe; and  
 “ though I was awed into reverence  
 “ and submission by his rebuke, I was  
 “ likewise inspired with confidence and  
 “ hope of the rewards of immortality.  
 “ The angel, who had descended both  
 “ to reprove and instruct me, having  
 “ executed his commission, spread  
 “ forth his resplendent pinions, and  
 “ soared towards the empyrean.

“ When I began to reflect upon my  
 “ own sentiments and conduct for some  
 “ time past, I was sensible of the justness  
 “ and force of the admonition delivered  
 “ me by the angel of reproof; I per-  
 “ ceived, that I had indulged a crimi-  
 “ nal excess of grief, and that for the  
 “ sake of this indulgence, I had sacri-  
 “ ficed



[ “ ficed or neglected some of the most  
 “ important duties of life. I recollected  
 “ that man was formed for action,  
 “ rather than for contemplation;  
 “ that the pressure of our own private  
 “ calamities, however severe, can never  
 “ exempt us from those duties which  
 “ we owe to our children and to society;  
 “ that despondence under affliction is  
 “ in every situation a weakness as well  
 “ as a crime; and that resignation under  
 “ the irremediable evils of life to the  
 “ will of the Supreme, and intrepid  
 “ resolution exerted in combating those  
 “ to which our natural powers are  
 “ adapted, and which by our continued  
 “ efforts may be overcome, argues at  
 “ once the greatest magnanimity and  
 “ the truest fortitude.

“ This train of reflexion served in  
 “ some

“ some measure to reconcile me to my  
“ unhappy fate; reason resumed its em-  
“ pire in my breast, and time, which al-  
“ ways moderates the excess both of our  
“ joys and sorrows, aided by sentiments  
“ of religion which took place in my  
“ mind, at last abated the violence of  
“ my grief; and the tempestuous gusts  
“ of passion, which at first agitated  
“ my soul, subsided in a settled and  
“ pensive, but not unpleasing melan-  
“ choly. I still thought of Selima  
“ with the same tenderness, but my  
“ heart was not so much torn by  
“ those violent conflicts of passion,  
“ which are the results of the first im-  
“ petuous bursts of grief in its excess:  
“ I gradually acquired a certain serenity  
“ of temper, to which I had been long  
“ a stranger, and I engaged with ear-  
“ nestness in the task of educating my  
“ children,

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“ children, now my only care, which I  
“ considered as my duty, and which  
“ I executed with delight.

“ My son, to whom I had given the  
“ name of Alibeg, was at the time of  
“ his mother's death in the ninth year  
“ of his age, and flattered me with the  
“ appearance of a happy genius and  
“ good disposition, much beyond his  
“ years; my daughter, who bore the  
“ name of Fatima, was only in the  
“ seventh, and I already traced with in-  
“ expressible pleasure, in her unfolding  
“ features, a lively image of her mother,  
“ whom she promised to resemble in  
“ the endowments of her mind and the  
“ graces of her person.

“ In the education of my children  
“ I was particularly careful to impress  
“ on



“ on their minds an awful reverence  
“ of the supreme Being, a veneration  
“ for his prophet and a respect to his  
“ oracles; for I considered, that though  
“ these sentiments could not at present  
“ operate upon their actions in any  
“ other manner than by the power of  
“ of habit, yet they might in the fu-  
“ ture period of their lives, should  
“ they in the course of Providence  
“ happen to be cast upon the world,  
“ and to mingle in the common pursuits  
“ and occupations of mankind, discover  
“ their influence in a more rational  
“ manner, and prove excellent preserva-  
“ tives against the contagion of folly  
“ and vice. I endeavoured to trace  
“ out to them, in proportion as their  
“ faculties expanded, the vestiges and  
“ exhibitions of divine wisdom and  
“ goodness in the visible creation around  
“ us;

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“ us; and pointed out innumerable  
 “ instances of the benignity of the  
 “ supreme Being in the provision which  
 “ he has made for the supply of the  
 “ manifold wants of mankind. From  
 “ this display of the wisdom and  
 “ beneficence of the Deity, I endeavour-  
 “ ed to inflame their hearts with the  
 “ most fervent love and gratitude to-  
 “ wards that Being who is the author  
 “ of all the felicity we enjoy or hope  
 “ for.

“ I shewed them likewise that a de-  
 “ vout resignation to the divine Will,  
 “ under the pressure of affliction, an  
 “ unshaken trust in God for deliverance  
 “ from the calamities to which we  
 “ may be subjected, a stedfast hope  
 “ of his favour, of his bestowing upon  
 “ us whatsoever is most conducive  
 “ to

“ to our most important interests, and  
 “ finally productive of our eternal  
 “ happiness, are all founded upon the  
 “ power, the omniscience, the wisdom,  
 “ and the goodness of the supreme  
 “ Being.

“ While I pointed out to them the  
 “ reasonableness and the obligation of  
 “ gratitude and love to God, I endea-  
 “ voured at the same time to cultivate  
 “ in their minds the principle of uni-  
 “ versal benevolence to mankind, and  
 “ to train them to the practice of this  
 “ virtue by exercise and habit, long  
 “ before they were capable of reasoning  
 “ on its nature and its effects. The  
 “ sphere of their beneficence indeed  
 “ was narrow, being confined within  
 “ the circle of the shepherds and pea-  
 “ sants in the neighbourhood, who  
 “ used



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“ used sometimes to visit us in our  
“ retirement, and with whom we inter-  
“ changed offices of hospitality and  
“ friendship; but the operation of the  
“ principle itself became vigorous ac-  
“ cording to the paucity of the objects  
“ on which it was exerted, as waters  
“ pent up in a narrow channel over-  
“ flow the banks which confine them  
“ and form a stronger and more rapid  
“ current, than when they are diffused  
“ to a greater extent.

“ In order to habituate them to the  
“ practice of benevolence, I accustomed  
“ them to the performance of kind  
“ and benevolent offices to those who  
“ came to visit us, such as by making  
“ them presents of figs, dates, and such  
“ like, which, though inconsiderable  
“ in their value, had a tendency to  
“ strengthen

“ strengthen the principle from which  
 “ they flowed; and I endeavoured to  
 “ inspire them with tenderness and  
 “ sympathy towards the unhappy by  
 “ making them eye-witnesses of the  
 “ misfortunes of our neighbours arising  
 “ from the desolation of the seasons and  
 “ from the consequent scarcity of pro-  
 “ visions.

“ In this system of moral discipline,  
 “ I found indeed that nature performed  
 “ more than one half of the work, at  
 “ the same time I observed with  
 “ exquisite pleasure the effect of my  
 “ instructions and tuition in giving a  
 “ proper direction for the principles  
 “ which she had implanted. Thus  
 “ all my cares and labours in the educa-  
 “ tion of my children were fully com-  
 “ pensated by their daily progress and  
 “ advancement

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“ advancement in those which I en-  
“ deavoured to cultivate in their minds.  
“ But alas! when my children, now in  
“ the prime of youth, appeared like  
“ the almond-tree in all its blossom  
“ and beauty, lovely to the eye and  
“ fragrant to the smell, a fatal accident,  
“ which I yet shudder with agony and  
“ horror to relate, blasted the goodly  
“ prospect and laid all its honours in  
“ the dust.

“ One day Alibeg and Fatima hav-  
“ ing gone abroad with some of the  
“ neighbouring shepherds, in order to  
“ gather some of the fruits which the  
“ mountains yielded, were intercepted  
“ by a band of robbers, consisting of  
“ six persons all armed, who happened  
“ to pass that way through the desert  
“ by an unfrequented road near the  
“ place



" place where they were gathering fruit."  
 " These ruffians, casting their eyes on  
 " Fatima, whose beauty arrested their  
 " attention, and thinking her the only  
 " prize worthy of their regard, they  
 " determined to carry her off by  
 " force as a present to their chieftain,  
 " who was not with them in this expedi-  
 " tion; coming up therefore with this  
 " intention to Fatima, who was quak-  
 " ing with dread at what was likely  
 " to happen, they seized her with-  
 " out further ceremony, telling her  
 " that she must go along with them,  
 " and that they would provide her with  
 " a lover who would know how to  
 " prize her charms.

" Fatima, upon finding herself in the  
 " power of this infamous band, gave  
 " a loud shriek, which alarmed her  
 L " brother

“ brother so much, that he ran up hastily  
“ with a baton in his hand, the only  
“ weapon he had, calling upon the  
“ villains who dragged her along to  
“ release her, and threatening if they  
“ did not instantly comply with his  
“ desire, to revenge the violence offered  
“ to his sister. One of the wretches  
“ who thus dragged Fatima along  
“ with him, whose name was Tagay  
“ Bahadr, and who seemed to have  
“ the command of the rest, turning  
“ upon Alibeg, and regarding him  
“ with a look both of resentment and  
“ scorn, told him, “ That he would  
“ chastize his insolence immediately if  
“ he did not restrain the petulance of  
“ his tongue, and that he needed not  
“ expect he would release his fair captive  
“ as he was determined to carry her  
“ as a present for his captain, though  
“ he

"he were opposed by much more  
 "formidable enemies than he and his  
 "ragged companions."

"Alibeg, stung with rage at this  
 "contemptuous answer, and in-  
 "flamed with indignation at the  
 "indignity and violence done to his  
 "sister, replied, "That he did not at pre-  
 "sent intend to combat his antagonist  
 "with words but with blows," adding,  
 "that whatever might be his fate, he  
 "would endeavour, armed only as  
 "he was with the baton which he held  
 "in his hand, to take a signal venge-  
 "ance on the wretch who dared to  
 "lay his sacrilegious hands on his  
 "sister, and to speak so injuriously and  
 "disrespectfully of his friends." He  
 "had scarce uttered these words,  
 "when springing forward with the

L 2

"rapidity



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“ rapidity of an eagle, eager to seize  
“ his prey, he gave the fellow, who  
“ had uttered this scornful and contemp-  
“ tuous language, such a blow on  
“ the head with his baton, that he  
“ reeled backwards a few paces and  
“ fell to the ground, then recover-  
“ ing his arm he aimed such a blow at  
“ another, that the weight of the stroke  
“ laid him prostrate at his feet. Had  
“ my son been supported as he ought  
“ at this crisis by his companions, he  
“ might have been able to rescue his  
“ sister, but these standing aloof, either  
“ through want of courage or presence  
“ of mind, he was forced to maintain  
“ the combat against the four remain-  
“ ing villains, from one of whom, while  
“ he was parrying a blow aimed at  
“ him by another, he received a mortal  
“ wound in the side, and sunk to the  
“ earth.

" earth. Fatima seeing her brother  
 " fall and the vital blood gushing from  
 " the wound he had received, screamed  
 " wildly, and fainting at the direful  
 " spectacle before her eyes, she sunk  
 " down on his breast. The two  
 " shepherds observing Alibeg fall were  
 " seized with a sudden panic, and  
 " afraid of participating in his fate,  
 " they betook themselves to flight;  
 " but anxious at the same time to  
 " know the catastrophe of Fatima, they  
 " wheeled about, and returning through  
 " the thickest part of the wood, where  
 " they were screened from the view  
 " of the robbers, they waited in dread-  
 " ful suspense for the conclusion of  
 " this pathetic scene.

" From one of these eye and ear-  
 " witnesses it was that I heard the

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“ particulars of the moving tale that  
“ I am now relating in thine ears, and  
“ which memory hath engraven on the  
“ tablets of my heart in characters  
“ too deep to be erased by the hand of  
“ time.  
“ Alibeg feeling his sister lying on  
“ his breast in a swoon, was by that  
“ circumstance thrown into such a  
“ violent emotion, as overpowered all  
“ the faculties of his soul, and almost  
“ terminated in his immediate dissolu-  
“ tion; clasping her eagerly in his arms  
“ once and again he essayed to speak to  
“ her; but the weakness of his body  
“ occasioned by the loss of blood,  
“ the strength of his sensations, and the  
“ fierce conflict of contending passions,  
“ all raging in his breast in their utmost  
“ extremes, deprived him of the power  
“ of



“ of speech. In this terrible paroxysm  
 “ of the passions, he poured forth his  
 “ soul and life at once into the bosom  
 “ of his sister.

“ At last, Fatima, gradually recover-  
 “ ing from the swoon into which she  
 “ had been thrown by the violent agi-  
 “ tation of her mind, just when her  
 “ brother was expiring, and having  
 “ heard him as she was beginning to re-  
 “ cover faintly pronounce her name, she  
 “ turned her languid eyes upon him,  
 “ and eagerly clasping him in her arms,  
 “ Didst thou not, my dear brother,”  
 “ cried she, “ call upon the name of  
 “ Fatima?—But ah! thou speakest not,  
 “ thou answerest not to the voice  
 “ of Fatima:”—Then recoiling from  
 “ his arms, while the wild stare of  
 “ horror and agonizing grief was im-

“ pressed on her countenance, “ Thou  
“ art cold, thou art pale,” she, said “ My  
“ dear, my affectionate Alibeg is gone  
“ for ever. Mysterious Providence,”  
“ exclaimed she, “ why am I condemned  
“ to be a spectator of this dreadful  
“ scene? — O that my destiny had sub-  
“ jected me to the fate of Alibeg,  
“ that my life and sorrows might have  
“ terminated together.” Casting her  
“ eye upon the robbers who surrounded  
“ her, “ Ye ruthless ruffians,” said she,  
“ who have embrued your hands in  
“ the blood of the dear youth, who  
“ lies dead before you, complete your  
“ work; let your steel pierce this bosom,  
“ and I will bless the stroke by which  
“ I expire, and which will once more  
“ unite me to Alibeg.” Perceiving  
“ that they gave her no answer, and  
“ that they were preparing to seize her;  
“ and

“ and happening to observe a sword  
“ which belonged to one of the  
“ robbers whom Alibeg had knocked  
“ down, lying on the ground at some  
“ distance, she sprung away from them,  
“ and hastily snatching it up, and  
“ pointing it at her breast, “Perfidious  
“ wretches,” said she, “do not imagine  
“ that while I am thus armed, I will  
“ ever suffer myself to become your  
“ prey, or to be robbed of my honour,  
“ which this sword shall protect. If  
“ any of you presume to advance one  
“ step further, in order to lay violent  
“ hands upon me, I will that moment  
“ plunge it into my heart.”

“ While they observed her thus  
“ determined to sacrifice her life, rather  
“ than allow herself to fall into their  
“ hands, they stood aloof and seemed



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“ irresolute what method to take in  
“ order to get her into their power,  
“ till one of the two whom Alibeg had  
“ knocked down, having recovered  
“ from the blow, stole behind her un-  
“ perceived, and seizing the sword,  
“ wrenched it out of her hand; the  
“ others seeing her thus disarmed, im-  
“ mediately came up to her, and tak-  
“ ing hold of her arm dragged her  
“ along with them, piercing the air  
“ with her wild shrieks, at one time im-  
“ ploring the interposition of heaven  
“ in her own favour, at another, its  
“ vengeance on the murderers of her  
“ brother.

“ The shepherds told me that she  
“ continued bewailing the death of her  
“ brother and the miseries of her fa-  
“ ther, till her cries could no more be  
“ heard.

" heard. After the robbers had thus  
 " carried my dear Fatima along with  
 " them by violence, and were entirely  
 " out of sight, the two shepherds, think-  
 " ing they might now safely peep out of  
 " their lurking places, came to the spot  
 " where the body of my son was left,  
 " and having fixed his corpse on a bier  
 " which they made of branches of  
 " trees, they carried it in this manner  
 " towards my cell." As the hermit  
 was entering upon this part of his  
 relation the tears gushed from his  
 eyes, and the sorrows which agitated  
 his throbbing heart again smothered  
 his voice. Recovering himself a  
 little, after several ineffectual attempts  
 to speak, " Thou," says he, ad-  
 dressing himself to Amur, while  
 the thick sobs again stifled his  
 speech, " who hast known what

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“ it is to lose a darling and an only  
“ child, do thou excuse this interrup-  
“ tion of my narration, and those  
“ tears which I shed to the memory of  
“ my dear Alibeg.

“ Theſſun”, reſumed he, “ was partly  
“ far advanced in the weſtern hemi-  
“ ſphere, the ſhadow of evening began  
“ to lengthen, and I waited with eager  
“ expectation for the arrival of my ſon  
“ and daughter along with their gueſts  
“ at my ſolitary dwelling. Imagin-  
“ ing they would be hungry after  
“ their long faſting and fatigue, I had  
“ ſet ſome proviſions for them on the  
“ table, and wondering at their long  
“ ſtay, I went out in order to meet  
“ them by the way: I had not travelled  
“ far, before I obſerved the two ſhep-  
“ herds who had gone abroad with  
“ Alibeg



“ Alibeg and Fatima, returning with  
“ a burden which they carried betwixt  
“ them, though I could not yet distin-  
“ guish what it was. While they were,  
“ at a considerable distance from me,  
“ I called out to them, enquiring where  
“ they had left my son and daughter,  
“ and what that burden was, under  
“ the weight of which they seemed to  
“ totter in their walk: they made  
“ no answer to my enquiry; but con-  
“ tinuing their march towards me as  
“ fast as they were able till they ap-  
“ proached within a few paces of me,  
“ they laid down the bier on which  
“ they had fastened the body of my  
“ son, at such a distance, that though  
“ I could perceive a corpse upon the  
“ bier, I could not yet determine with  
“ certainty whose corpse it was. A  
“ dreadful presage however of the fatal  
“ tidings

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“ tidings I was so soon to hear, that  
 “ moment took possession of my  
 “ mind, and I stood still in a kind of  
 “ dumb horror, anticipating in my own  
 “ imagination the dreadful spectacle that  
 “ was going to be exhibited to me.  
 “ While I continued fixed in astonish-  
 “ ment and dreadful suspense, one  
 “ of the shepherds, whose name was  
 “ Meruk, came up to me immediate-  
 “ ly, and addressing me with a look of  
 “ the most mournful sympathy, “ Rhe-  
 “ di,” said he, “ let thy soul be summon-  
 “ ed up to meet the stroke of affliction,  
 “ and may Allah whom thou serveest,  
 “ and who dispenseth good and evil  
 “ according to his pleasure, support  
 “ thy soul under the severe trials which  
 “ he has now prepared for thee. Thy  
 “ son is dead, and lies on yonder bier :  
 “ he fell by the hand of robbers, fighting  
 “ in defence of his sister’s honour ; and  
 “ thy

“thy daughter Fatima, alas! they have  
“carried along with them as their  
“prey.”  
“On hearing these dreadful tidings  
“my soul was overwhelmed with un-  
“alterable agony, my blood was con-  
“gealed in my veins, a deathlike pale-  
“ness overspread my countenance,  
“I reeled and fell backwards to the  
“earth. That sudden and over-power-  
“ing stupor of the senses into which  
“I was thrown on the first informa-  
“tion of this shocking catastrophe,  
“like the grumbling that usually  
“portends and precedes the gathering  
“storm, was followed by a tempest  
“of grief which beat down all the  
“structures of my hope, and tore from  
“the root all my loveliest flowers,  
“which sprung upon the garden of  
“delight—Like one hastily awakening  
“from



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“ from a frightful dream, that had  
 “ been presented to the imagination,  
 “ to a still more frightful reality, I re-  
 “ coiled with horror at the first glimpse  
 “ of my misery ; but when remem-  
 “ brance and reflexion began to exert  
 “ their power on my tumultuous mind,  
 “ I was roused at once into the most  
 “ desperate sensibility of the calamities  
 “ which had befallen me, and experi-  
 “ enced the severest pangs of grief,  
 “ which can torture the heart of man.  
 “ Rolling in the dust in the agony of  
 “ despair, with my hands clasped, and  
 “ my eyes directed towards heaven,  
 “ Eternal and omnipotent Allah,” said  
 “ I, “ why are the bolts of thine in-  
 “ dignation still levelled at a reptile of  
 “ the dust ? O ! let the lightning of thy  
 “ wrath flash against this hoary head at  
 “ once ; put a period to an existence  
 “ which I am unable to endure.”

“ Then

“ Then raising myself, with the  
 “ assistance of the shepherds, from  
 “ the ground, I walked with a tottering  
 “ step towards the place where the dead  
 “ body of my son was laid down.  
 “ When I saw his pale and mangled  
 “ corpse, the vehement passions which  
 “ crowded into and overpowered my  
 “ soul choaked my speech; I fell pro-  
 “ strate upon the body, I hugged and  
 “ pressed it to my bosom, while I suf-  
 “ fered a convulsion of my whole frame,  
 “ which, had it continued a few mo-  
 “ ments longer, must have been fatal  
 “ to my reason or my life. At last the  
 “ torrent burst forth, and I gave vent  
 “ to the tempestuous emotions which  
 “ raged in my mind, in the violent  
 “ gusts of heart-rending grief. But  
 “ why should I dwell on a scene the  
 “ representation of which must excite  
 “ such

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“ such painful sensations in your feeling  
 “ hearts, and the recollection of which,  
 “ even at this distance of time, awakens  
 “ my grief in all its violence.—And  
 “ yet why should I give myself up to  
 “ the dominion of grief, upon account  
 “ of the loss of Alibeg?—For thou,  
 “ my son, art happy; thou hast passed  
 “ the narrow bridge; thou drinkest of  
 “ the waters of Zemzim; thou art re-  
 “ freshed with the airs of paradise, and  
 “ enjoyest the society of the faithful.

“ While I thought of the situation  
 “ of Fatima, however, familiar as I  
 “ was with misfortune, a dreadful fore-  
 “ boding seized my heart, and shook  
 “ my whole frame. “ Ah! my Fa-  
 “ tima,” exclaimed I, with a sigh, that  
 “ almost burst my heaving heart, “ where  
 “ art thou? and what is thy destiny?

“ Perhaps



" Perhaps, alas ! thou art reserved for a  
 " fate more dreadful than death ; per-  
 " haps thou art at this moment exposed  
 " to the insults of brutality, and the as-  
 " faults of violence ; and the recital of  
 " thy dishonour is yet wanting to fill  
 " up the cup of thy father's misery !  
 " Merciful Allah !" cried I, " grant  
 " that before these dreadful tidings  
 " reach my ears, these eyes, to which  
 " the light of the sun is already hate-  
 " ful, may be closed in everlasting  
 " darkness." As I thus bewailed the  
 " calamities which had befallen me, in  
 " all the anguish of overwhelming  
 " grief, the shepherds, who brought  
 " me the body of my son, and who,  
 " though destitute of that degree of  
 " courage the exertion of which might  
 " have saved my Alibeg and Fatima,  
 " seemed greatly affected with my se-  
 " vere

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“ vere afflictions, and attempted to ad-  
“ minister to me all the consolation  
“ which their sympathizing hearts could  
“ suggest; but finding me deaf to all  
“ their arguments and expostulations,  
“ they desisted for the present, and pro-  
“ posed to assist me in paying the last  
“ duty to the body of Alibeg; a pro-  
“ posal which I thankfully complied  
“ with.

“ The shepherds having raised it to  
“ their shoulders on the bier on which  
“ it was brought, I directed them to  
“ carry it to the spot where the ashes of  
“ my dear Selima were interred; I fol-  
“ lowed the sad procession with a slow  
“ and melancholy step; I opened the  
“ grave, which contained the remains  
“ of the best and loveliest of women;  
“ I placed close by those remains the  
“ corpse

“ corpse of my beloved Alibeg ; and I  
“ earnestly wished that moment to be  
“ laid in the same grave, and to mingle  
“ my dust with theirs ; but the wish  
“ was vain : I continued, however,  
“ gazing stedfastly on their sad reliques,  
“ till the shepherds, denying any longer  
“ this indulgence to my grief, threw  
“ the earth which had been dug up on  
“ their bodies, and covered them with  
“ these green sods. Having performed  
“ this mournful office, they endeavoured  
“ to persuade me to leave a spot, which  
“ suggested to me so many melancholy  
“ ideas ; and thinking it might tend to  
“ suspend or assuage my grief, they  
“ urged me earnestly to go along with  
“ them to their cottage, which was  
“ about two miles distant. I continued  
“ deaf, however, to all their intreaties  
“ and remonstrances ; and they finding  
“ their



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" their solicitations ineffectual, left me"  
 " swallowed up in devouring misery,"  
 " intending to return to-morrow, and"  
 " to attempt by all the means in their"  
 " power to alleviate those calamities"  
 " which they could not remove.

" Of the manifold miseries to which"  
 " mortality is subjected, there are some"  
 " of these too overwhelming to admit"  
 " of mitigation or of comfort; and all"  
 " endeavours to mitigate them appear"  
 " to us rather officious and unseason-"  
 " able, than friendly and agreeable."  
 " We as it were choose to brood over"  
 " them undisturbed and alone, without"  
 " participation or sympathy. I felt my-"  
 " self in this situation upon the occa-"  
 " sion of which I now speak, and after"  
 " the departure of the shepherds I gave"  
 " myself up to the dominion of in-

“ consolable grief, which I wished to  
 “ appropriate wholly as sacred to my-  
 “ self. Ruminating in my own mind  
 “ on my deplorable condition, I confi-  
 “ dered myself as a solitary, forlorn,  
 “ and abandoned wretch, whose every  
 “ endearing connexion was broke asun-  
 “ der by the hand of death, standing  
 “ alone like an old withered oak, strip-  
 “ ped of its leaves, and exposed to the  
 “ fury of the warring elements; then  
 “ prostrating myself upon this grave,  
 “ which contained all that was mortal  
 “ of my Selima and Alibeg, I gave  
 “ vent to the emotions of my full heart,  
 “ in the most pathetic lamentations.

“ While I was at one time bewailing  
 “ in the most pitiable accents my own  
 “ forlorn and desolate condition, at  
 “ another expressing my most ardent  
 “ wishes

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“ wishes for a re-union to those who  
“ were the objects of my tenderest af-  
“ fections, the powers of nature were  
“ at last exhausted with the agitation  
“ of my mind and the fatigue of my  
“ body, and I sunk into a gentle slum-  
“ ber, which gradually overcame my  
“ senses, and for a while lulled all my  
“ sorrows in oblivion. While the or-  
“ gans of sensation suffered a temporary  
“ suspension in their exercise, the  
“ most glorious and delightful vision I  
“ had ever beheld was exhibited to my  
“ imagination, and all the powers of  
“ my soul were drowned in an ecstasy  
“ of pleasure. Raising my eyes from  
“ the ground, on which I lay, and di-  
“ recting them to the east, I perceived  
“ an unusual brightness in that part of  
“ the hemisphere, that seemed to in-  
“ crease as it approached nearer me.

“ As



" As I gazed on this splendid phæno-  
 " menon, a being of mild but majestic  
 " dignity burst from the dazzling ra-  
 " diance upon my view, in a blaze of  
 " glory that wrapt my mind in admira-  
 " tion and awe, suspense and astonish-  
 " ment. As he looked on me, tender  
 " compassion beamed in his eye, and  
 " unutterable benignity irradiated his  
 " countenance. From the mildness  
 " and serenity of his air, I knew him  
 " to be the angel of consolation, and  
 " though I was awed into reverence  
 " and humility by the presence of so  
 " superior a being, I felt myself like-  
 " wise elevated by it with confidence  
 " and hope. " Rhedi," said he, " He  
 " that dwelleth in the highest heavens  
 " hath had pity on thy misfortunes,  
 " and hath sent me to comfort thee  
 " under their pressure, by disclosing to  
 M " thy

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“ thy view the rewards that are allotted  
 “ to pious resignation and persevering  
 “ virtue in the regions of paradise.  
 “ Arise and follow me.” As he uttered  
 “ these words, he touched me with a  
 “ rod of mysterious power which he  
 “ held in his hand, when I perceived  
 “ myself in an instant snatched up into  
 “ the air, and transported with the rapi-  
 “ dity of lightning through unbounded  
 “ tracks of æther ; we arrived at an im-  
 “ mense and delicious garden, or rather  
 “ country, which my conductor told  
 “ me was the abode of the faithful.

“ It is in vain for me to attempt to  
 “ give you any just idea of the beauty  
 “ of a place which exceeds all power  
 “ of description, and even all that can  
 “ be conceived by human imagination,  
 “ and which is as much superior to the  
 “ most

“ most beautiful spot on this earth, as  
 “ the gardens of Ispahan are superior  
 “ to the deserts of Arabia. In this en-  
 “ chanting place all the beauties that  
 “ nature yields were exhibited in such  
 “ a manner and with such variety, as  
 “ to produce the most exquisite delight,  
 “ without the least satiety: hill and  
 “ dale, rocks and mountains, woods  
 “ and rivers, fountains and cascades,  
 “ embroidered meadows, murmuring  
 “ streams and embowering shades,  
 “ walks intersecting each other, some  
 “ straight, some serpentine, some open-  
 “ ing a vast extent of country to the  
 “ view, others dark and shadowy,  
 “ and wandering through a mazy laby-  
 “ rinth into a boundless wilderness; all  
 “ conspired to embellish and to com-  
 “ plete this delightful landscape: the  
 “ trees on each hand at the same time,



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“ covered with blossoms and bending  
“ with fruit, exhibited the riches of all  
“ the seasons in all their pride, while  
“ the birds, chanting their melodious  
“ songs of love on every bough, height-  
“ ened the effect of these charming  
“ scenes, and rendered them perfectly  
“ enchanting.

“ As I was gazing around me, lost  
“ in wonder and delight, on this happy  
“ place and its fair inhabitants, some of  
“ whom, both male and female, were  
“ walking promiscuously in conference  
“ together, without seeming to regard  
“ me, others musing on the bank of a  
“ murmuring rivulet, and others listen-  
“ ing to the falls of cascades and the  
“ roar of dashing torrents, I looked  
“ behind me, in order to ask some que-  
“ stion of my heavenly guide concern-  
“ ing

“ ing the condition and character of the  
 “ happy beings whom I saw around me,  
 “ but I perceived he had vanished  
 “ from my sight. While my eyes  
 “ searched on every hand in vain for my  
 “ divine conductor, and I was ponder-  
 “ ing in my mind the reason of his dis-  
 “ appearing so suddenly, in a place  
 “ where his condescending instruction  
 “ could be of such use to me, I per-  
 “ ceived a female form, of the most  
 “ exquisite beauty, attended by a lovely  
 “ youth, advancing towards me, both  
 “ of whom eyed me with a mixture of  
 “ tenderness and affection ; but the for-  
 “ mer cast upon me such a bewitching  
 “ look of gentleness and love, as pene-  
 “ trated my soul, and produced emo-  
 “ tions in my heart which were as plea-  
 “ sing as they were violent. As I  
 “ gazed on this divine creature with

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“corresponding tenderness and passion,  
 “I instantly recognized the lineaments  
 “of my Selima’s face, which were, if  
 “possible, moulded into greater sym-  
 “metry, and flushed with a more vivid  
 “bloom; and springing forward, in  
 “order to fold her in my arms, “O! my  
 “lovely Selima,” cried I, “am I at last  
 “blessed with a sight of the sole charmer  
 “of my heart?”—As I pronounced  
 “these words, I attempted to embrace  
 “the enchanting fair-one; but she va-  
 “nished from my grasp, and checking  
 “the eagerness I discovered to press her  
 “to my bosom, “Attempt not,” said  
 “she, “my dear Rhedi, to embrace  
 “thy Selima, a privilege which thou  
 “canst not enjoy while thou continuest  
 “a partner to mortality; but listen to  
 “the information and counsel which on  
 “the present occasion I am permitted  
 “to



“ to give thee. Thou bewailest my  
 “ death as the greatest calamity that  
 “ could have befallen me; but thou  
 “ didst not know that if I had lived a  
 “ few hours longer I should have been  
 “ subjected to a calamity far more dread-  
 “ ful than death, by suffering dishonour  
 “ from the same ruffians who carried off  
 “ thy daughter. The death of thy son  
 “ was another terrible shock to thy ten-  
 “ der and parental heart, and thou re-  
 “ gardedst his fate as most deplorable  
 “ and premature; but if thy limited  
 “ faculties could have enabled thee to  
 “ foresee that that son, whose fate thou  
 “ didst consider as untimely, would in  
 “ the course of his destiny have been  
 “ cast upon the world, and exposed to  
 “ temptations and vice, which, virtuous  
 “ as he was, his own fortitude would  
 “ not have enabled him to resist, instead

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“ of arraigning the justice and good-  
 “ nefs of Providence, in permitting  
 “ him to be cut off, a rashness of con-  
 “ duct into which by thy short-sighted  
 “ understanding thou wast in some de-  
 “ gree betrayed, thou wouldst have  
 “ owned the rectitude of the divine dis-  
 “ pensations, and acknowledged the  
 “ mercy of the stroke which preserved  
 “ him from guilt. Let the considera-  
 “ tion, therefore, of the escape which  
 “ by my death I made from dishonour,  
 “ and of the escape which thy son,  
 “ whom thou seest here with me in this  
 “ happy state, hath by his death made  
 “ from vice,” pointing to the dear  
 “ youth, whom she held by the hand,  
 “ reconcile thee to those dispensations  
 “ which thou so lately, though unknow-  
 “ ingly, deemedst to be severe: and  
 “ let this important truth be engraven  
 “ on

“ onh e tablets of thy heart, that all  
 “ the dispensations of Providence, how-  
 “ ever calamitous many of them may  
 “ appear to the individuals who suffer,  
 “ are regulated by unerring wisdom  
 “ and boundless benignity, and shall,  
 “ if suitably improved, terminate either  
 “ in the temporal or eternal happiness  
 “ of those who are the objects of them.  
 “ With regard to thy daughter Fatima,  
 “ whose situation has justly excited in  
 “ thy heart the most anxious solicitude  
 “ and the most alarming fears, let it  
 “ suffice thee to know that she is still  
 “ alive, and that she has been rescued  
 “ by a signal interposition of Provi-  
 “ dence from the evil which thou  
 “ dreadedst hadst befallen her. The  
 “ farther particulars of her fate I am  
 “ not permitted at present to reveal:  
 “ this intimation only I am allowed to



“ give thee, that to-morrow, about  
 “ noon, thou wilt meet several persons  
 “ at the fountain near thy cell, one of  
 “ whom comes to prefer a request to  
 “ thee, with which thy affectionate Se-  
 “ lima begs thee to comply. Adieu, my  
 “ Rhedi, make it thy study to per-  
 “ severe in the path of virtue, and we  
 “ shall be joined in these happy regions  
 “ in everlasting union.” Just as she  
 “ had pronounced these words, I made  
 “ a second attempt to embrace her; but  
 “ she escaped as formerly from my  
 “ grasp, and the effort which I made  
 “ awakened me from my dream.

“ The impresson which this delight-  
 “ ful phantom made upon my ima-  
 “ gination was so vivid, that for some  
 “ time I could not determine whether  
 “ I was asleep or awake, or whether  
 “ the

“ the appearance that had been exhi-  
“ bited to me was real or imaginary;  
“ my senses still continued wrapt in the  
“ most pleasing and enchanting deli-  
“ rium I had ever experienced; and  
“ resigning myself under the influence  
“ of this delirium to the power of ima-  
“ gination, which was still predomi-  
“ nant over my reason, “ O my be-  
“ loved Selima!” exclaimed I, “ thou  
“ long lost and long deplored charmer  
“ of my soul, hast thou, after so many  
“ years separation, condescended to  
“ visit thy affectionate and constant  
“ Rhedi? Or am I only the dupe of  
“ my own senses? And is the appear-  
“ ance of my Selima and Alibeg only  
“ the delusion of a troubled imagina-  
“ tion, which mistakes shadows for  
“ realities?” Then looking around  
“ me, and perceiving that I had never

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“ stirred a foot from the spot where  
 “ the shepherds had left me, “ Alas !”  
 “ said I, “ how have I been deceived  
 “ by the chimeras of a love-sick brain ?  
 “ But a few moments ago I fancied  
 “ myself in paradise, and I was blessed  
 “ with a sight of my Selima and Ali-  
 “ beg ;—and now I press their dead  
 “ bodies in this grave. I was lulled in  
 “ a delicious dream, and now I awake  
 “ to discover the illusion, and to be-  
 “ moan my cruel disappointment. A  
 “ dream did I say ? No, the impres-  
 “ sion was too vivid for a dream ; it  
 “ was doubtless a vision, which Selima  
 “ herself, my beloved Selima, was per-  
 “ mitted to exhibit to my imagination,  
 “ on purpose to sooth and comfort my  
 “ troubled mind :—and I already feel  
 “ its happy effect, in restoring tran-  
 “ quillity to my soul, and in diffusing  
 “ over



“ over it that ineffable joy that arises  
“ from the hope of a re-union, which  
“ will consummate its felicity. I will  
“ therefore indulge this hope, and pa-  
“ tiently wait for its accomplishment.—

“ But didst thou not, my lovely fair-  
“ one, tell me that my dear Fatima  
“ was yet alive, and had escaped dis-  
“ honour, though it seems thou wast  
“ not permitted to acquaint me of the  
“ particulars of her fate, or explicitly  
“ to inform me whether or not I should  
“ yet be blessed with a sight of her.  
“ Without attempting to pry into the  
“ secrets of futurity, which are wrap-  
“ ped by Providence in darkness impe-  
“ netrable to mortal eye, I will be  
“ thankful for the intimation already  
“ vouchsafed me, and I will believe it  
“ as the dictates of an oracle. I will  
“ not yet despair of seeing my Fatima,  
“ though

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“ though I know not by what means I  
“ may obtain this happiness, and am  
“ confident that we shall all meet and  
“ rejoice together through endless ages  
“ in the mansions of immortality.”

“ The more I reflected on the asto-  
“ nishing and delightful scenes that had  
“ been exhibited to my imagination,  
“ whether in a dream or in a vision, I  
“ was the more convinced that there  
“ was something mysterious or superna-  
“ tural in the manner of their repre-  
“ sentation; and I flattered myself that  
“ the intimation I had received in my  
“ sleep portended my speedy enjoy-  
“ ment of those scenes, and of that  
“ society which I so eagerly panted  
“ after. While I considered this dream  
“ or vision as expressive of and pre-  
“ saging my future felicity, every  
“ gloomy

“ gloomy thought was dissipated at  
“ once ; my mind became pensive in-  
“ deed, but serene, tranquil, and cheer-  
“ ful, intensely animated by the ardor  
“ of hope, and gently devoted by the  
“ sublime raptures of rational devo-  
“ tion.

“ The shepherds having come next  
“ day as they intended, to the place  
“ where they had left me, in order to  
“ offer me all the sympathy and con-  
“ solation in their power, were asto-  
“ nished at the alteration they per-  
“ ceived in my temper and disposition,  
“ of which I explained to them the  
“ cause. On hearing this related, their  
“ astonishment was increased, and they  
“ earnestly concurred with me in  
“ ascribing praise to Allah, for the  
“ wonderful change they had witnessed.

“ As



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“ As the time however of the appear-  
“ ance of the guests foretold by Seli-  
“ ma was drawing near, I went to the  
“ appointed place, and sitting down  
“ by the side of the fountain, I watched  
“ their approach with a suspense and  
“ eagerness proportioned to the im-  
“ portance of the tidings I expected to  
“ hear.

“ The leaves of the trees began to  
“ whistle, I listened to the sound with still  
“ attention, and I looked earnestly  
“ through the openings of the wood  
“ for the expected strangers; but in  
“ vain; the wind had deceived me,  
“ and I began to fear a disappointment.  
“ At last, I heard the noise of camels  
“ at a distance; my heart throbbed with  
“ expectation: I looked intensely  
“ through a long avenue of the wood  
“ and discovered several persons riding on  
“ camels,

“ camels, and as they approached nearer  
 “ me, I observed one of them leading a  
 “ camel in his hand, without a rider  
 “ or a burden. In this company I clearly  
 “ discovered two men and three women,  
 “ who appeared to be well dressed,  
 “ riding before, together with a retinue  
 “ of four servants who followed them.  
 “ Suprized at seeing so many well-  
 “ dressed persons coming to visit so  
 “ solitary a place, and still ignorant  
 “ of their real errand, I advanced in  
 “ order to meet and welcome them  
 “ to my cell. As I went forward, I  
 “ observed one of the ladies hastily  
 “ alighting from the camel on which  
 “ she rode, and running as fast as she  
 “ was able to meet me, and in an in-  
 “ stant I found Fatima in my arms,  
 “ Transported with surprise and joy,  
 “ while I closely pressed her to my  
 “ bosom, “ O my dear Fatima,” cried I,  
 “ after

“ after so many dangers and fatigues  
“ art thou once more restored to the  
“ arms of thy disconsolate father.  
“ Praise be to Allah, who, though he  
“ has cut afunder the thread of my  
“ Alibeg’s life, hath preserved thee to  
“ sustain my drooping soul under the  
“ weight of my affliction and the de-  
“ cline of life?” At this affecting inter-  
“ view, the tears of joy trickled down  
“ both our cheeks; and we continued  
“ some time locked in each other’s  
“ arms, dissolved in mutual raptures  
“ of parental and filial tenderness. My  
“ soul was so intirely ingrossed by the  
“ emotions of paternal affection, that  
“ for a while my eye did not take  
“ cognizance of the persons, who  
“ had accompanied Fatima in her  
“ journey. Looking around me, at  
“ last, upon one after another, I ob-  
“ served them all affected with the  
“ interview



“ interview they had witnessed ; while  
“ one of the youths by his humid eye,  
“ and a certain look of mingled com-  
“ placency, sympathy, and tenderness,  
“ discovered a heart-felt interest in  
“ the pathetic scene which had been  
“ exhibited to his view. Recollecting  
“ myself therefore a little, and address-  
“ ing myself to them altogether,  
“ Pardon,” said I, “ illustrious strangers,  
“ my having failed in that respect  
“ and attention which was due to per-  
“ sons of your noble appearance, a  
“ failure that was owing to the surprise  
“ and joy I felt on the unexpected  
“ recovery of my daughter. May I  
“ presume to ask to whom I am indebted  
“ for so great a favour, and for the  
“ honour done me in visiting this  
“ solitude.” Fatima, consulting the  
“ delicacy of her benefactors, and desir-  
“ ous to prevent the blush which is apt  
“ to

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“ to arise in the cheek of modest worth  
 “ when it is obliged to publish its own  
 “ actions, thought it proper to inter-  
 “ pose at this juncture by addressing  
 “ herself to me. “The persons,” said she,  
 “ who have accompanied me to this  
 “ place, and to whom I probably owe  
 “ my life or at any rate what is certain-  
 “ ly much more valuable than life,  
 “ my honour, are Sefi Ali Khan and  
 “ Gamal Beg his brother, and I should  
 “ be inexcusably ungrateful, if I had  
 “ not the deepest sense of the obliga-  
 “ tions I am under to their generosity  
 “ and valour.

“ After the deplorable death of my  
 “ dear brother, an event which will  
 “ never be erased from my heart, I  
 “ was dragged away by the robbers  
 “ who had seized me, and had no pro-  
 “ spect

" spect before me but dishonour and  
 " death. While they dragged me  
 " along with them I pierced the air  
 " with my cries, which, happily for  
 " me, reached the ears and penetrated  
 " the hearts of these generous youths  
 " whom you see before you, who, alarm-  
 " ed by the cries which they heard as  
 " they passed that way, rode up hastily  
 " in order to learn their cause. Trans-  
 " ported with the hopes of deliverance,  
 " unequal as they were in number to  
 " their antagonists, I represented my  
 " unhappy condition to them with all  
 " the eloquence of heart-felt distress:  
 " I told them, that the ruffians in whose  
 " custody I was, had murdered my  
 " brother fighting in defence of his  
 " sister's honour, that they were forcing  
 " me along with them into captivity,  
 " and that they intended to subject me  
 " to



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“ to a fate more dreadful than death,  
“ by exposing me to injury and dis-  
“ honour. This representation pro-  
“ duced the desired effect on the minds  
“ of these generous youths, who called  
“ on the robbers to release me immedi-  
“ ately, threatening them with instant  
“ death in case of a refusal. These  
“ wretches however, steeled against every  
“ emotion of sympathy, and probably  
“ incensed at the menacing language of  
“ my protectors, retaliated their threats  
“ and put themselves in a posture of  
“ defence. But the valiant youths  
“ whom you see before you, stimulated  
“ by that indignation and ardor, which  
“ flash in heroic minds against the  
“ assailants of innocence, wielded their  
“ swords with such efficacy, that they  
“ laid four of the villains who opposed  
“ them dead at their feet, the remain-  
“ ing

“ ing two having betaken themselves  
 “ to flight. After this signal deliverance,  
 “ which challenges my most fervent  
 “ gratitude, I was conducted by my  
 “ protectors to the house of Sefi Ali  
 “ Khan, who is Cady of Shirwan,  
 “ where I have been treated with all the  
 “ delicacy and respect which I could have  
 “ wished for, and where these amiable  
 “ ladies who have condescended to ac-  
 “ company me hither, have honoured me  
 “ with their esteem and friendship ever  
 “ since I came to their brother’s house.”

“ On hearing this account of her  
 “ deliverance from Fatima, I looked  
 “ on the two noble youths with an  
 “ air of respectful and fervent grati-  
 “ tude mixed with admiration; and  
 “ told them it was impossible I should  
 “ ever have it in my power to demon-  
 “ strate

“strate by my actions, the sense I had  
 “of the great obligations conferred  
 “upon me, but that no length of time  
 “would ever obliterate from my mind  
 “the deep impressions made on it by  
 “their generosity and bravery; and that  
 “I begged of them in the mean time  
 “to accept of my most ardent grati-  
 “tude and of my earnest prayers for  
 “their happiness, as the only return  
 “I had in my power to make for their  
 “gallant behaviour? Sefi Ali Khan,  
 “who was the person that appeared  
 “to be most deeply affected by the  
 “interview between Fatima and me,  
 “having advanced to salute me with  
 “a mien that indicated such re-  
 “spect as I could not think myself  
 “entitled to, accompanied with a cer-  
 “tain amiable bashfulness, hesitation,  
 “and embarrassment, of which as yet  
 “I knew



“I knew not the cause, Rhedi,” said he;  
“neither you nor your daughter are  
“under any obligations to us for the  
“deliverance you refer to; we are  
“sufficiently happy in being the in-  
“struments of rescuing so much worth  
“and beauty from the rude assaults  
“of violence; if however,” added he  
“with a tremulous voice and down-cast  
“eye, while the native blush of modesty  
“glowed on his cheek, “you are good  
“enough to think me deserving a re-  
“ward, it is in the power of Rhedi to be-  
“stow one that will make me the hap-  
“piest of mortals.” “If,” answered I,  
“the request be in my power to grant,  
“name it only, and you shall at once  
“obtain the accomplishment of your  
“wishes.” “The request,” replied he  
“with an ardor that sparkled in his  
“eyes, “that I would now prefer is for

N

“ your

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“ your consent to an union with the  
 “ lovely Fatima, in whom all my wishes  
 “ center, and in whom my felicity  
 “ would be complete.” “ O my  
 “ Selima,” cried I, “ is this the request  
 “ which in the vision of thee I was  
 “ blessed with, thou toldest me would  
 “ be preferred to me, and with which  
 “ thou exhortedst me to comply? I  
 “ respect thy supernatural admonition  
 “ and cheerfully obey thy desire.”  
 “ Then throwing my arms round the  
 “ neck of the illustrious youth, “ My  
 “ dear Sefi,” said I, “ if my consent  
 “ only be wanting to consummate thy  
 “ felicity, thy wishes are gratified,  
 “ provided thou obtainest the consent  
 “ of Fatima herself.” Then addressing  
 “ myself to Fatima, whose face was co-  
 “ loured with crimson, “ What says  
 “ my daughter to the proposal that has  
 “ been

“ been made ? Does she readily concur  
 “ with the earnest and unlimited de-  
 “ sires of Sefi and of Rhedi ? ” “ Though  
 “ I know,” said Fatima, “ the respect  
 “ which is due to the authority of so  
 “ indulgent a parent, who is pleased so  
 “ condescendingly to consult the choice  
 “ of his daughter in a matter of such im-  
 “ portance to her happiness, and though  
 “ I feel the most exquisite joy in being  
 “ restored to your arms, yet the recent  
 “ death of my brother, who fell  
 “ in defence of his sister’s honour, hath  
 “ left such impression on my heart,  
 “ that at present it cannot admit of  
 “ the blandishments of love. I can  
 “ only say that I have a proper sense of  
 “ the merits of Sefi Ali Khan and of  
 “ the distinction he has shewn me,  
 “ and shall always retain the most  
 “ grateful sentiments of my deliverance  
 N 2 “ from



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“ from the robbers, who attempted  
“ violently to carry me away, effected  
“ by his and his brother’s prowess.  
“ It is not impossible but I may some  
“ time give Sefi a convincing proof of  
“ my attachment as well as gratitude by  
“ concurring with those wishes which  
“ both you and he have expressed, and  
“ to which I will acknowledge I find  
“ no reluctance in my own heart.  
“ But I beg, my dear father,” continued  
“ she, “ that neither you nor Sefi Ali  
“ Khan will urge this point further  
“ at present, as my heart is too much  
“ agitated by the extremes of joy and  
“ grief to listen to the solicitations of  
“ love with those mutual sentiments of  
“ affection and tenderness which can  
“ alone render the intercourse of lovers  
“ endearing and agreeable.” I told her,  
“ that I not only allowed, but ap-  
“ proved

“ proved of her reasons for deferring  
 “ for some time the thoughts of a con-  
 “ nection, to entertain which as they  
 “ ought to be, required a mind tran-  
 “ quil, cheerful, and unembarrassed by  
 “ other cares; but that I hoped she  
 “ would in proper time give that en-  
 “ couragement to the suit of a noble  
 “ youth, to which his own merit seemed  
 “ so well to entitle him, and which  
 “ the obligations that both she and  
 “ I lay under to him, gave him ad-  
 “ ditional reason to expect.”

“ Sefi Ali Khan, afraid perhaps that  
 “ the delicacy of Fatima might be  
 “ hurt by pushing the matter too far,  
 “ thought proper to interpose, by assur-  
 “ ing us that he exempted us from  
 “ all obligations to him upon the score  
 “ of gratitude, as he had done nothing

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“ more for her, than he would have  
 “ done for any young lady placed in  
 “ the same circumstances. He said, he  
 “ wished to be indebted to her love, not  
 “ to her gratitude, for the preference  
 “ he solicited; then addressing himself  
 “ to Fatima, whose hand he gently  
 “ seized and pressed to his heart, “ I am  
 “ transported with joy, my dear Fatima,”  
 “ said he, “ at the encouragement you  
 “ have given me to hope for a return to a  
 “ passion as pure, ardent, and unalterable  
 “ as was ever lighted up in the human  
 “ breast. In the meantime I will at present  
 “ desist from my suit, which the state  
 “ of your mind and other circumstances  
 “ may just now render unseasonable,  
 “ in hopes of your listening to my  
 “ solicitations at a more convenient  
 “ time, only begging your permission,  
 “ with the approbation of your father,



“ to visit you now and then in this  
“ solitude, where all my treasure is  
“ contained.”

“ Fatima told him that as her father  
“ approved of his proposals, his visits  
“ would always be agreeable to her;  
“ and I assured him of his meeting  
“ with a welcome reception at my  
“ hermitage. I then desired Fatima  
“ to set before our guests such pro-  
“ visions as were to be found in our  
“ cell, which she did with a frankness  
“ and grace that pleased them all, and  
“ particularly Sefi Ali Khan, who  
“ seemed to be enchanted with her  
“ whole behaviour. As we sat down  
“ to eat, the remembrance of my son  
“ whom I had so lately lost, and who used  
“ to participate with us in our simple  
“ repast, crowded upon my soul and

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“ swelled my throbbing heart. I ob-  
“ served my daughter affected in the  
“ same manner, while the big drops  
“ started from her eye, and trickled  
“ down her cheek; both Gamul Beg  
“ and his two sisters appeared to  
“ sympathize with our grief; but Sefi  
“ Ali Khan entered into it with a  
“ feeling peculiar to himself, and catch-  
“ ing the contagion of sorrow from the  
“ eyes of Fatima, by whom he had been  
“ informed of the merit of Alibeg,  
“ he lamented his death as if he had  
“ been his own brother. The strong  
“ sympathy discovered by Sefi in par-  
“ ticular, contributed to sooth and  
“ to assuage my grief, and pleased me  
“ the more, as I considered it as an  
“ indication of the humanity of his  
“ disposition and of the tenderness  
“ of his heart, which agreeably flattered  
“ me

“ me with the hopes of his proving a  
 “ kind and affectionate husband to my  
 “ daughter. Fatima observed his emo-  
 “ tion, and I perceived with pleasure,  
 “ that from this specimen of his dis-  
 “ position, he seemed gradually to  
 “ gain her affections and to grow in  
 “ her esteem.

“ In order to comfort both my guests  
 “ and myself, I related to them the  
 “ wonderful circumstances that had  
 “ been exhibited to me in a dream or a  
 “ vision, which seemed to astonish them  
 “ all exceedingly, and especially Fatima  
 “ whose attention hung upon my lips;  
 “ and while we contemplated the happy  
 “ state of Selima and Alibeg, our souls  
 “ were at once composed into refig-  
 “ nation and glowed with the raptures  
 “ of sublime devotion.



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" After our guests had shared in the  
 " moderate repast which had been pre-  
 " pared for them, Sefi Ali Khan, his  
 " brother and sisters, took their leave of  
 " us and set out for their place of  
 " abode, which was about a day's jour-  
 " ney from my cell. Sefi visited us  
 " at least once every week for several  
 " months, and continued upon a far-  
 " ther acquaintance to improve in mine  
 " as well as my daughter's esteem, and  
 " Fatima having acknowledged her  
 " attachment to him, at last agreed to  
 " reward his merit, by giving him her  
 " hand as she had already done her  
 " heart. The amiable youth, enraptur-  
 " ed with joy at the ingenuous declara-  
 " tion which Fatima made of an affection  
 " for him, that had indeed taken place  
 " in her heart much sooner than she  
 " herself imagined, and at the consent  
 " she

“ he had given to that union he had  
“ so long solicited, said, “ There was no  
“ circumstance wanting to render his  
“ happiness complete but one, and that  
“ was my agreeing to spend the remainder  
“ of my days with my daughter and him  
“ at Shirwan, where the duties of his  
“ office as Cadi of that place necessarily  
“ obliged him to reside.” My daughter  
“ earnestly joined with Sefi Ali Khan  
“ in this request, and both of them hav-  
“ ing represented to me that the cell  
“ in which I had lived so many years,  
“ and which had been the scene of  
“ the most exquisite happiness and  
“ misery I had ever experienced, could,  
“ after the death of my wife and son  
“ and the departure of my daughter, sug-  
“ gest nothing but melancholy ideas,  
“ by exhibiting to my view objects that  
“ were calculated to open up the foun-  
“ tain

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“ tain of my grief a-fresh, and recal-  
“ to my remembrance pleasures that  
“ could never return, they urged me to  
“ leave a place that served only to  
“ renew the remembrance of my cala-  
“ mities, and to pass the remaining part  
“ of my life with them, which, they said,  
“ they hoped would be most conducive  
“ to my tranquillity and comfort.

“ After thanking them for their kind  
“ invitation, I told them, that though all  
“ my earthly felicity centered in them,  
“ who were now the only objects of  
“ my tender and parental affections, yet  
“ there was in this place, melancholy  
“ and desolate as it must now appear  
“ to me, some secret but mysterious  
“ and powerful charm, which irresistibly  
“ attached me to it; and though all the  
“ objects around me could only serve  
“ to



“ to remind me of what had once been,  
“ and to recall to my pensive mind  
“ pleasures which could never return,  
“ yet the very recollections of those  
“ pleasures, which I enjoyed with my  
“ beloved Selima, in this once delight-  
“ ful, now, alas mournful retreat, inspir-  
“ ed me with a certain sublime but pleas-  
“ ing melancholy, which I would not  
“ forego for all the enjoyments which  
“ the sons of avarice, sensuality, or am-  
“ bition can hope to obtain.” “ Urge  
“ me not therefore, my dear children,”  
“ said I, “ to leave a place to which I  
“ am attached by numberless and ir-  
“ resistible ties. I will however often  
“ visit you, and hope to be often visited  
“ by you. Your endearing society  
“ will cheer my lonely retreat, and  
“ enable me to pass the evening of my  
“ life in serene tranquillity. But this  
“ spot

“ spot shall be the fixed place of my  
 “ abode. Here I have lived many  
 “ years; and some of them in a state  
 “ of as exquisite happiness as ever was  
 “ allotted to humanity;—and here I  
 “ will die. I long for the happy  
 “ moment which shall mingle my ashes  
 “ with those of Selima, and which shall  
 “ indissolubly reunite us together in  
 “ the mansions of the blessed.” Find-  
 “ ing me determined in the choice  
 “ of my plan of life, they desisted from  
 “ using any further arguments in order  
 “ to prevail with me to alter it.

“ In a little after we all set out to-  
 “ gether for Shirwan, where Sefi Ali  
 “ Khan was married to my daughter by  
 “ the Iman of the place, and having  
 “ spent a few weeks with them at Shir-  
 “ wan, I returned again to this solitary  
 “ but

“ but peaceful retreat, where I intend  
“ to pass the remaining part of my life  
“ in the exercises of piety and virtue,  
“ in the quiet contemplation of the  
“ vicissitude of mortality, and in pre-  
“ paring my soul for the felicity of  
“ Paradise.

“ Sefi Ali Khan and my daughter  
“ have now lived about twelve years in  
“ a reciprocal intercourse of the most  
“ endearing affection and friendship,  
“ and I have been treated by them with  
“ all that attention and filial reverence  
“ which a parent could wish for. My  
“ comfort likewise hath been greatly  
“ increased by seeing a family of pro-  
“ mising children which Fatima hath  
“ born to Sefi, rising around me, like  
“ thriving plants in a well-cultivated  
“ garden; and it hath been a great part  
“ of



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“ of my employment to assist the pious  
“ cares of the parents in forming their  
“ minds to the love and exercise of  
“ virtue, in which our united labours  
“ have hitherto been attended with all  
“ the success we could expect. Though  
“ I feel a peculiar satisfaction in the  
“ discharge of the duties of this office,  
“ which I consider as particularly in-  
“ cumbent upon me, and which I exe-  
“ cute with a watchful, tender, and plea-  
“ sing assiduity; and though I have fre-  
“ quently the happiness of seeing my  
“ dear Fatima and her husband, both  
“ here at Shirwan, and enjoy the comforts  
“ of the most agreeable domestic society  
“ in their company, yet my soul is wed-  
“ ded to this solitude, where every object  
“ around me recalls to my remembrance  
“ the image of the dear deceased, and the  
“ happiness

“happiness I once enjoyed in their  
“endearing society.

“While I sit on this grave where their  
“mortal tenements are deposited, and  
“water their ashes with my tears, while  
“I think of the mournful vicissitudes  
“of human life in general, and of those  
“in particular which I myself have been  
“doomed to experience, I feel a certain  
“pensive and sublime melancholy tak-  
“ing place in my mind, which delights  
“to muse on those mournful subjects as  
“most congenial to the disposition that  
“suggests them, and my soul carrying its  
“views beyond this scene of perpetual  
“mutation anticipates the hope and  
“pants for the fruition of the joys of  
“immortality.

“Such,

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“ Such, Amur, is the history of my life;  
“ let thy soul drink instruction from the  
“ lesson it contains, as the tender flowers  
“ drinking the dews of heaven, which  
“ adorn them with the colours of beauty,  
“ bestow on them their glossy enamel,  
“ and diffuse those agreeable odours that  
“ regale our senses with their fragrance.  
“ Let this important truth be engraved  
“ on the tablets of thy heart, that afflict-  
“ tion of one kind or another is the  
“ lot of man ; but that those who submit  
“ to the irremediable evils of life with  
“ patience and resignation, or overcome  
“ them by the exertion of superior for-  
“ titude, are the only persons who reap  
“ real advantage from the afflictions to  
“ which they are subjected. Remember  
“ that man is a sojourner upon earth, a  
“ traveller towards paradise, his native  
“ home ; and that the joys and sorrows



“ of mortality, when put in competition  
“ with that state of endless happiness or  
“ misery which shall succeed the present,  
“ is as the drop of the bucket, com-  
“ pared with the river Ganges, which  
“ rolls its majestic course through the  
“ plains of Indostan, or the scanty rill  
“ that refreshes some verdant meadow,  
“ compared with the immense ocean that  
“ fixes the boundaries of kingdoms and  
“ incircles the habitable world.”

As he spoke the angel of instruction impressed the truths he delivered on the minds of his guests. Rhedi returned to his cell in peace, and Amur, Almerine, and Mouli, with minds composed into resignation and tranquillity, took their way through the wilderness of Ararat.

"of mortality, when pain and sorrow  
"with that state of earthly happiness or  
"misery which shall succeed the present;  
"it is as the drop of the bucket, com-  
"pared with the river Ganges, which  
"rolls its majestic course through the  
"plains of India, or the heavy mill  
"that crushes some verdant meadow,  
"compared with the immensity of the  
"ocean, the boundlessness of kingdoms and  
"inhabits the habitable world."

As he spoke the angel of instruction  
imparted the truths he delivered on the  
minds of his guests. He then returned to his  
cell in peace, and Anna, Almerine,  
and Moll, who had accompanied him into  
segregation and solitude, took  
their way through the wilderness of  
Avalar.

